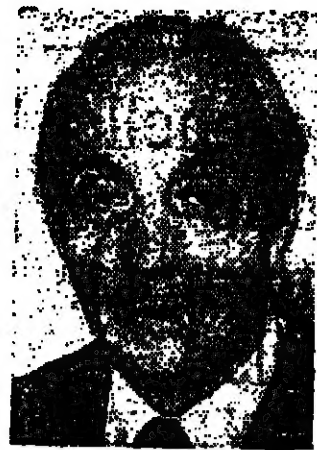

NEWS IN SUMMARY



Mr. Brown: 'Certain to start talks with SDP.'

London MP quits

Mr. Ronald Brown, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, last night announced that he was leaving the Labour Party after 45 years because it had become "an adjunct of the Communist Party" (Anthony Bevan, out Political Correspondent, writes).

He told a meeting of his constituency general management committee that he found it impossible to continue as a Labour Party member because of his total opposition to the leftward drift of Party policy, and because of the infiltration of the party by Communists and Trotskyites.

Mr. Brown, who entered Parliament in 1934, is the brother of Lord George Brown, the former Labour Foreign Secretary who has joined the Social Democratic Party. Mr. Brown told the committee that he was "almost certain" to start talks with the SDP.

It was known for months at Westminster that Mr. Brown was extremely disaffected about the state of the Labour Party, particularly in London. As a member of the executive of the Greater London Labour Party, he saw at first hand the effects of the concerted left-wing takeover.

Cut-off home gets a torch

A mother with a daughter, aged two who had their electricity supply cut off because she owed nearly £400 was given £5 by the Department of Health and Social Security to buy a torch, when she went there for help. Leeds magistrates' court was told yesterday.

Mrs. Karen Lesley Speight, aged 21, of Cedar Road, Leeds, pleaded guilty to dishonestly using electricity. She was given a conditional discharge for 12 months. Mrs. Speight, who reconnected the supply, told police: "I have a little girl and I need hot water and the light."

Marks to face new trial

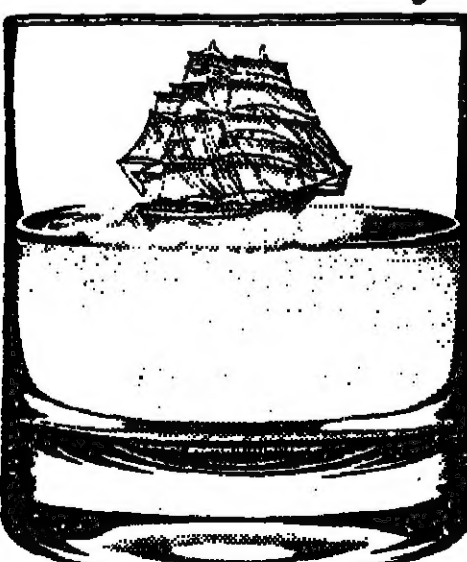
Dennis Howard Marks, aged 36, the former MI6 spy cleared last week of heading a £20m international drug smuggling operation, is to face trial in the New Year on other drug charges, it was stated yesterday.

Mr. Alan Suckling, said for the prosecution at the Central Criminal Court yesterday that the Director of Public Prosecutions had decided to go ahead with another trial relating to alleged drug offences by Marks in 1972.

Triple murder hunt

Police were hunting yesterday for the killer of three youths who were found dead in their cars near Welwynborough, Northamptonshire. Mr. Sid Hickling, and Susan Owens, both aged 27, and Adolphus Smith, aged 25, had been shot.

Cutty Sark Scotch Whisky



Quality without compromise.

Paisley's 'army' condemned by RUC and UDA

From Christopher Thomas, Belfast

Mr. Jack Hermon, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, said last night that the fabric of society in Northern Ireland was threatened by self-appointed armies.

In one of his toughest statements he said: "No republican or loyalist paramilitary organization or any private force acting outside the law will be permitted to usurp the authority of the police or Army."

The new "Third Force," which gives the Rev. Ian Paisley a paramilitary machine to add to his church and political movement, seems to be successfully developing in border areas and night-time vigilante patrols have begun.

But Mr. Hermon, who did not mention the Third Force by name, said the role of self-appointed armies was "to seize power and dictate to the people not only what they should do or should not do, but whether they should live or die. It therefore behoves everyone who values freedom to support the forces of law and order."

Mr. Hermon's statement came as the Third Force is operating mainly in border areas where members of the security forces are particularly vulnerable to IRA attacks.

The Protestant Paramilitary group seem united in their animosity to Mr. Paisley, whose campaign has almost certainly boosted the republican cause in the United States.

A senior leader of the Ulster Defence Association said: "If it is a choice between a united Ireland or living under the rule of Paisley, I think most of us would opt for a united Ireland."

Mr. Hermon's statement came

as the Third Force denied that it was behind a Protestant paramilitary show of strength on Tuesday night in Dublin, during which one of its leaders said off-duty members of the security forces were involved.

However, the denial is being treated with some scepticism. There is an increasing effort by the organization's leaders to dispel the possibility that policemen or UDR soldiers might be members.

Mr. Hermon said the RUC would not and could not be directed by factional groups or political pressures, from whatever direction.

"Now is the time for this community to hold on to its commonsense and not to put in danger the democratic values which we cherish," he assured that the police and the Army will fight terrorism until terrorism is finished.

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Telecom to aim for economies of 25pc

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

British Telecom is planning to cut its operating costs by 25 per cent over the next three years, in an economy drive directed against restrictive union practices that may involve redundancies.

Sir George Jefferson, chairman of the state telecommunications business, has told unions that changes must be made soon to reduce labour and other bills by about 8 per cent each year up to 1984.

He said: "We have about 15 months left in which to put ourselves on a proper commercial footing, for if we are caught off balance, then market forces might be irretrievably lost to our competitors."

Main priorities in forthcoming talks will be the need to match high wages with high output and the achievement of lower costs.

In the new commercial climate brought about by the Government's legislative abolition of the state telephone monopoly, British Telecom is also discussing with ministers the desirability of "Bobby Bonds" to bring private investment into the nationalised concern.

"We are looking at possible arrangements for giving preference to staff applications," Sir George says in what he describes as the most urgent and important message in the history of the business.

"Whatever the colour of future governments will need to ensure that money because the National Loans Board is unlikely to meet our needs over the next few years. But the effectiveness of this means of how attractive the bonds are to raising money will depend on the interest rate."

"Management must bear the main responsibility for most of what is wrong and for putting it right with the help of unions and staff." The main concerns singled out are demarcation problems, "inflexible" work practices, rigidity on manning levels and slowness to accept change.

British Telecom does not have plans for sweeping, across-the-board redundancies of the kind experienced in other service industries.

British Telecom's outgoings in 1980-81 were £4,373m, and a 25 per cent reduction on that figure would mean a billion-pound cut in money spent on operating the telecommunications service, investment, buildings, research and interest payments.

Mr. Bryan Stanley, general secretary of the Post Office Engineering Union, suggested yesterday that Sir George's comments were "no more than a general idea about how he sees the future."

He said: "It is an interesting proposition, and clearly a matter for consideration by members of Parliament and the Attorney General."

He also suggested that any new complaints procedure which he agreed must be seen to be fair, would be likely to arouse the mistrust of some section of the community.

He had heard many complaints from community leaders, but it had to be borne in mind that young officers were sometimes expected to handle what was hard to hear. Inexorable though it was in a disciplined force for anyone to react improperly, it required a lot of wisdom, patience and tolerance not to take the bait, he said.

Much effort and money had been expended to try to attract more police recruits from ethnic minorities (see article on page 10). Perhaps the hostility which they sometimes encountered within their own communities was one reason why many very able potential recruits did not come forward.

Commander Fairbairn has under him five officers of West Indian origin, two Asians, a Cypriot and a Turk.

Others predicted that more black policemen would worsen matters. They supported Mr. Enock Powell's statement that "you have not seen anything yet" and said they would welcome subsidized repatriation if the price was right: £9,000 was mentioned.

The youths who patrol outside the shops left in Railton Road, centre of the April riots, are probably the most crucial target of the report. In their late teens and twenties, many of them Rastafarians, most without jobs, it was their response to police tactics that sparked the riots. Their behaviour will provide the barometer of change.

Twenty-four hours after the Scarman report's publication, most had gained their sketchy impressions of it. None could cite specific recommendations. But they agreed on one central point: that Lord Scarman had told the truth.

Mr. Steven Brown, aged 23,



Winning looks: A thoughtful Chris Esplin and Kevin Keegan.

Chris Esplin, aged five, who saved his drowning brother, was one of several young people who were named Champion Children of the Year, by Dr. Barnardo's at a ceremony in London yesterday.

The boy, of New Marske, Redcar, Cleveland, received an award for his bravery in rescuing his brother, aged two, who slipped out of a rubber ring in a swimming pool. The older boy grabbed his brother by the hair and held him out of the water.

Thirty children reached the finals of the Dr. Barnardo's competition and heard Princess Margaret announce the winners of the nine sections, which covered drama, art, dancing, music, special interests, junior mastermind, sport, courage of the handicapped and Superkid '81.

The finalists and the eventual winners were selected by a panel of experts, each of whom had a particular interest in one of the sections. They included Kevin Keegan, Richard Baker, Tony Hart, John Noakes, Karen Rabinowitz, Johnny Ball, Keith Castle and David Johnson, chief executive of Rumbelows, who sponsored the competition.

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Speaker orders MP to get out

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent, Westminster

It was a day of considerable excitement in the Commons yesterday. Mr. Arthur Lewis, the heavyweight Labour MP for Newham North West, was thrown out by the Speaker after getting so wound up that he could not stop talking on a point of order.

Mr. Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, seemed to be on the verge of a coup d'état. Mr. Michael Foot seemed to be on the verge of a nervous breakdown and five youths were banished from the public gallery of the House after shouting "hypocrite" at Mr. Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State for Home Affairs.

To top it all Miss Joan Lester, the new women's rights spokesperson on the Labour front bench, tried to enrol Mr. William Whitelaw in the feminist cause and needless to say, which she did not find too rewarding.

Much of the tension and turmoil, as it turned out, was the result of an unusually leaky 48 hours in the corridors of power, during which ministers, MPs, agents provocateurs, MI5 and MI6, not to mention MI and MI8 have been taking open government to "ludicrous lengths."

Everything from the legalizing of brothels to the curbing of unemployment pay has been divulged in devious and sinister ways. No wonder Mr. Foot was calling for the flood barriers and Mr. Lewis was urging the Speaker to send out a lifeboat.

Indeed, Labour MPs were understandably too happy when they welcomed Mr. Whitelaw to make a few more revelations, only to be told that patience was a virtue and that they would have to wait for Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, to make a statement next week.

But Mr. Whitelaw was working without Mr. Lewis, who is not a man to be trifled with when he gets religiously indignant. Mr. Lewis is the MP who lay down in front of a large lorry outside the Savoy Hotel on behalf of some good cause long since forgotten.

Day in and day out, they are leaking, leaking, leaking. He shouted, glaring furiously at the Government front bench. "It's a revolution we want."

Mr. Skinner yelled from the seat beside him. "Or at least a change," Mr. Robert Cray (Keighley), a fellow militant, suggested.

Another insurgent shouted from the gallery. Just as things began to get interesting, with Mr. Skinner looking around for the nearest lamp post, the Speaker began to lean heavily on Mr. Lewis, warning him of his tolerance so far and of his patience that was fast running out.

But it is no easy matter to stop Mr. Lewis once he has been wound up and the member for West Ham NW demanded a ruling from the chair.

"My ruling," the Speaker said, "is that Mr. Lewis has been wasting our time for the past 15 minutes and I must ask him to leave the precincts of this House for the rest of the day's sitting."

Parliamentary report, page 12

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Parliamentary report, page 12

Science Report

Three tests try to end the bends for divers

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Three research programmes are starting to try to prevent decompression sickness (the bends) among divers. The incidence of an incapacitating bone erosion that often follows.

One investigation is planned in an experimental chamber to be built underground beneath 150 feet of clay. It will test a novel idea by Dr. Anthony Evans and Professor Dennis Walder, of Newcastle University, that cosmic particles which form part of the natural background radiation may provide the trigger for bubble formation that causes the bends.

A second project by Professor Sir William Paton and Dr. Stephen Daniels, of the department of pharmacology at Newcastle University, is based on a method for pinpointing microscopic bubbles in tissues and monitoring their movement. The third, and long term study, allows tests for the potential effects on divers of experimental mixtures of gases designed to allow men to work at much greater depths.

These experiments will be done at the Medical Research Council's clinical research centre at Harrow. Apparatus that simulates diving conditions at pressures up to 200 atmospheres has been installed there.

The technical factors influencing the economics of underwater work are complicated. For instance, a diver working for one hour at 350m needs 165 hours of decompression to return to surface conditions. So for economic reasons diving teams are kept in living quarters maintained at the pressure of the water level in which they are working.

Bubbles occur in two or three out of 100 divers working at the relatively modest depths of present offshore technology. Yet the reason for their formation is a mystery.

Professor Walder's group has been building a statistical analysis since 1964 of bone necrosis, thought to arise from the interruption in the blood supply to the bone.

His team has detected an association between the death of areas of bone and the level of two substances manufactured in the body, and found as hydroxyproline in the blood and ferritin in the bone marrow. Ferritins have been found to increase significantly soon after a bout of decompression sickness.

From yesterday's later editions

DEFLECTION HINT BY MP

Mr. George J. Cunningham, Labour MP for Ilkley South and Finsbury, after being selected on Wednesday as prospective candidate for the next general election, hinted that he was on the verge of leaving the party.

I now have a decision to take which in the short term, will be taken by Monday, he said. After 11 years as a Labour member the reselection by a margin of five votes "leaves me hanging from the cliff-top by my fingertips."

Fares decision not hasty, QC says

The Greater London Council reached its decision to subsidise a 25 per cent cut in bus and tube fares from the rates after careful and thorough consideration, Mr. Robert Alexander, QC, told the House of Lords on the second day of the GLC's appeal.

The GLC is appealing against the Court of Appeal ruling on November 10 which upheld a claim by the London Borough of Bromley that the GLC had acted illegally in levying an extra 5.1p rate to pay for the cut in fares.

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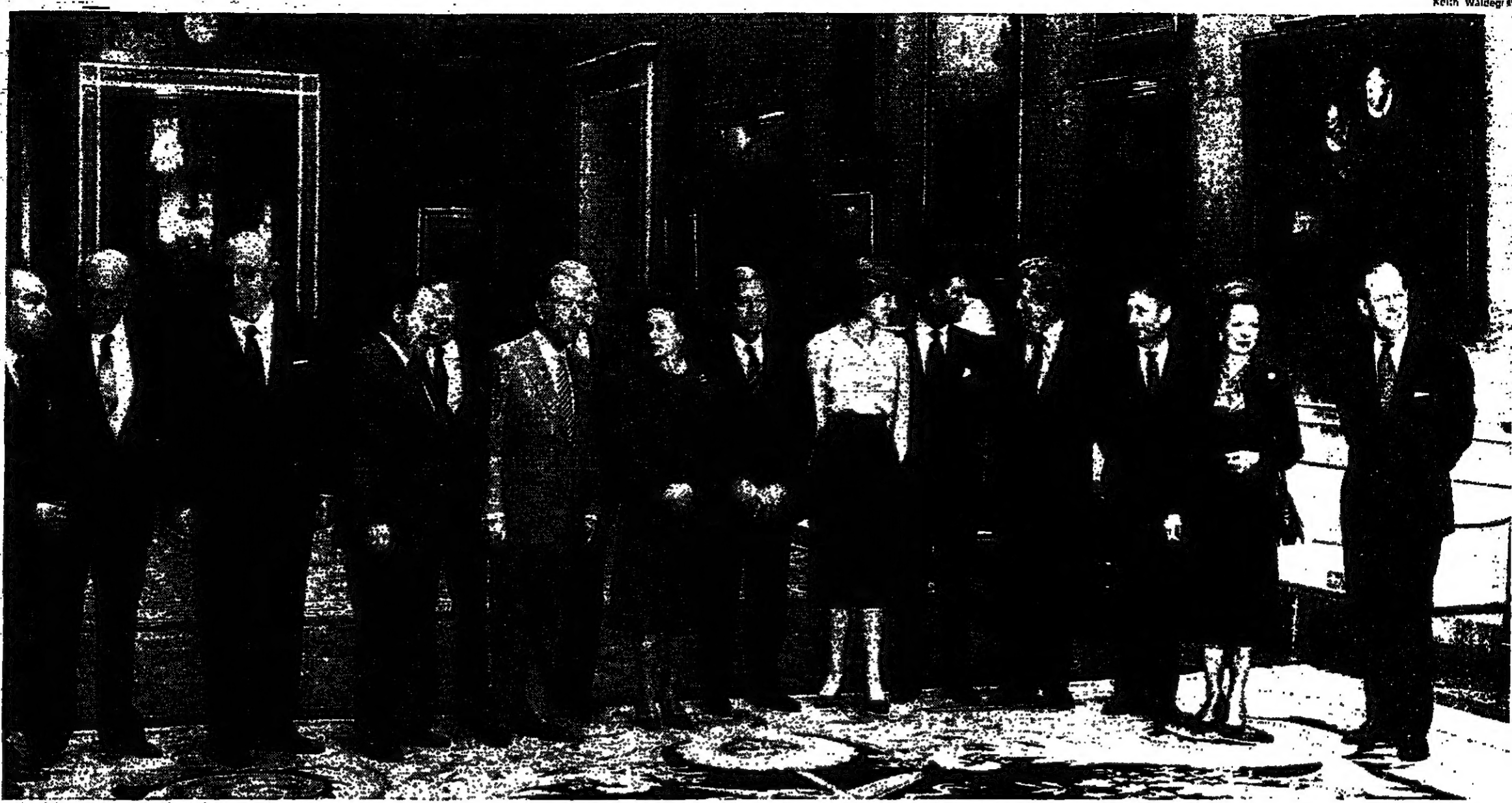
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European menu for the summit guests

Heads of Government and the President of the European Commission meeting the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince and Princess of Wales in the Picture Gallery at Buckingham Palace before going in for lunch yesterday. After consuming some of the products of the common agricultural policy, lobster quenelles in Champagne sauce, braised rump steak, cauliflower and wine, the leaders went on to discuss it at their summit at Lancaster House. The European heads launched into two days of discussions on budget reforms and farming policies that promised hours of hard talking before the meeting ends today. Pictured (from left) are Mr. Mark Eyskens (Belgium), Mr. Andreas Papandreu (Greece), Sir Giovanni Spadolini (Italy), Mr. Anker Jørgensen (Denmark), M. Gaston Thorn, the commission President, M. Francois Mitterrand (France), M. Pierre Werner (Luxembourg), the Queen, Herr Helmut Schmidt (West Germany), the Prince of Wales, Mr. Garret Fitzgerald (Ireland), Mr. Andries van Aarts (the Netherlands), Mrs. Margaret Thatcher and the Duke of Edinburgh.



Keith Walcott

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Competition 'a threat to rural buses'

More country buses will have to be withdrawn because of the Government's competition policies, Mr Robert Brook, chief executive of the state-owned National Bus Company, said yesterday. Mr Brook, who is Transport Correspondent, said that the Government's policy of allowing private operators to compete for routes would mean that some rural routes would be abandoned because they were not profitable. He said that the Government was "not taking account of the fact that rural buses are a social service, not a commercial one."

New names on Press Council

A police superintendent, an accountant, an intensive care unit nurse, and a BL export packer were named yesterday as new public members of the Press Council. They are: Mr Herbert Dawson, aged 49, of Basildon, Essex, an Essex county police superintendent and former head of the county police complaints department; Mr Peter Edward Hamilton, Fowler, aged 32, of Beaumaris, Anglesey, senior partner in a firm of chartered accountants in rural Wales; Mrs Rosalind Frapp, aged 43, of Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, a part-time staff nurse in an intensive care unit and a Labour member of Avon County Council; and Mr Denis Ward, aged 39, of South Yarley, Birmingham, an export packer with BL. Two public members reappointed for a second term are Mrs Beryl Huffinley, aged 55, of Ilkley, Yorkshire, secretary of the Leeds Trades Union Council and Yorkshire and Humberside TUC regional council, and Mrs Margaret Parkes, aged 56, of Barbican, London.

Contempt move against paper

Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, was yesterday given leave in the High Court to bring contempt of court proceedings against the publishers of the *News of the World*. The paper is alleged to have published an article on March 1 which tended to prejudice the retrial of Tracey Stamp, the former sailor who underwent a sex-change operation, on a charge of poisoning Mr Keith Vincent, her former boyfriend. The application was unopposed.

Onedin ship fire

A schooner known to millions of television viewers as the *Charlotte Rhodes* in the BBC *Credin Line* series was slightly damaged by fire at Brightlingsea, Essex, yesterday.

Libby Purves on TV

Libby Purves, who is leaving the *Today* programme on Radio 4, is to chair a new BBC1 television discussion programme in the new year, called *Choices*. It will discuss moral decisions in difficult situations.

Homelessness ruling brings new protests

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

The House of Lords ruled yesterday that a family were intentionally homeless because they had not waited to be evicted. The judgment led to renewed demands for clarification of the law. Housing charities immediately called for regulations to be strengthened to prevent such judgments which, they said, were contrary to the law's intention. The case adds to the growing number of contradictory judgments over the interpretation of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act, 1977, which required local authorities to provide permanent accommodation for homeless people falling into defined priority groups, provided they were not intentionally homeless. The Lords ruled by three to two that Wandsworth Borough Council was right to treat Mr and Mrs Din and their four children as intentionally homeless, confirming a previous split judgment in the Court of Appeal. Last week five Law Lords unanimously ruled against Hillingdon council in a similar case. Mr and Mrs Din and their four children had been living above a shop in Wandsworth, which they jointly owned and ran with relatives. The business began to fail in 1978, and the next year they asked Wandsworth council for advice. They were told they could not be helped until they had been evicted, but they left to stay with relatives. Mr Din later moved into temporary lodgings, while his wife and children lived with her brother. But overcrowding compelled Mrs Din and the children to leave and the family asked Wandsworth for help. The council ruled that they were intentionally homeless and provided them with temporary accommodation. That decision was upheld yesterday by Lord Wilberforce, Lord Lowry and Lord Fraser of Tullybelton. Lord Russell of Killowen and Lord Bridge of Harwich said they would have allowed the appeal. Lord Lowry, while dismissing the appeal, said there was no question of queue-jumping or

other unmeritorious conduct. But Lord Wilberforce said that every allocation of priority housing to homeless persons must have the effect of deferring the hopes of people in other categories, some of whom might have been waiting a long time. A decision did not mean nothing could be done for those judged "intentionally homeless", since they could join the waiting list, seek nomination to a housing association or, with advice, seek private housing with temporary accommodation meanwhile. Dismissing Lord Bridge said he could detect no trace of any attempt to jump the queue. It seemed a great injustice if a homeless person in priority need left accommodation prematurely and was then disqualified from the main benefits of the Act. Mr Bob Widdowson, of Shelter, said the Lords appeared to have ignored the code of guidance to the Act, which was intended to have statutory force, and which specifically stated that councils should judge cases on the immediate causes of homelessness. In the Din case, Wandsworth had referred back to the previous case. The code also suggested that court orders should not be insisted upon when it was quite clear that they would be granted, as in this case. The nine charities involved in monitoring the law are worried that thousands more families may be declared intentionally homeless. In the second half of 1980, 1,300 homeless families were treated under that category, an 83 per cent increase over the previous two years. The Department of the Environment said yesterday that the review of the Act would be published shortly. The Din family are living in temporary accommodation, provided indirectly by Wandsworth council. Alternative housing is being sought for them by voluntary housing workers. Law Report, page 6

Licensed or licentious?

By Tony Samstag

That notion of the prostitute as free spirit was echoed by Mr John Mortimer, QC, the barrister who yesterday approached the vexed question—strictly in theory—from the consumer's point of view. He said: "If I were a person who was excited by brothels I would probably find them more exciting if they were unlicensed." On the other hand, the exploitation of "these pathetic human beings" might indeed be curbed by such legislation. The Government's interest in the matter was disclosed almost incidentally in Parliament on Wednesday by Mr Giles Shaw, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, during discussion of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, which was given a second reading. Mrs Mary Whitehouse, of the National Viewers and Listeners Association, was not enthusiastic in her reaction. "When you licence, society gives an authority and, in effect, legalises sex shops or brothels. The real problem is that the Government is failing in its public duty to give the country effective obscenity laws," she said. But the last word, perhaps appropriately, came from Mr Roger Baker, editor of *Forum*, the sex-education magazine. He was, he said, in favour of licensed brothels and his immediate reaction was "about since". His only reservation was, like Mr Mortimer, to wonder whether men would want to patronise a safe and in effect respectable establishment.

Assurance on safety at Canvey



Sir Bernard Braine: Keats not dispelled.

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The Health and Safety Executive yesterday rejected claims that an industrial accident on Canvey Island could start a firestorm like those which devastated Dresden and Hamburg in the Second World War. "These incidents were of an entirely different nature from what could happen in the Canvey area", it said in a report on safety improvements at the island's vast refinery and storage complex. The executive claimed that improvements since it reported in 1978 had been "substantial and well-founded". But Sir Bernard Braine, the Conservative MP whose constituency of Essex, South East includes the island, remains unsatisfied after years of protest about the dangers to the 34,000 people who live on the 15 square mile island. "There have been improvements, but whether they are well-founded I beg leave to doubt", he said. "We are not dealing with an ordinary sort of industrial hazard. If there were an accident it would be the largest disaster in peacetime history."

The island contains the largest refinery and liquefied gas storage complex in Europe. It is almost 30 miles east of London, near the mouth of the Thames Estuary. A planning inquiry into the British Gas methane terminal on the south of the island will begin in January, and Sir Bernard will be among the leading objectors. The executive said improvements in the past three years, some of which had been backed by enforcement orders, had cost the industries on the island £15m. It calculated that the average individual risk of death or serious injury on the island had dropped in the past three years from more than five chances in 10,000 a year to less than half a chance in 10,000.

It pointed out that the average individual had well over one chance in 10,000 of being killed in a motor accident, and a higher risk of dying from natural causes at any age than of being killed in an accident on Canvey Island. "The current situation is not perfect, but it is manifestly impossible to eliminate all risk from industrial activity, as it is from life generally," the executive commented. "It is only too easy to predict disaster as the inevitable outcome of every potentially hazardous industrial activity, and to assign resources on such a basis is extremely wasteful."

Sir Bernard commented last night: "I don't think the public should be fooled by these mathematical formulae. There are areas of risk which will be put under a magnifying glass at the inquiry."

Inquest told of helicopter's last call

From Our Correspondent, Norwich

Seconds before a helicopter crashed into the sea killing 13 men, a Mayday message was sent saying: "Ditching—engine failure", an inquest in Norwich was told yesterday. Open verdicts were returned on the 12 victims whose bodies had been recovered. The helicopter, a Westland Wessex operated by Bristow, was returning to the Apsco terminal at Becton, in Norfolk, from the Leman gas rigs when it plunged into the sea near the Haisboro Sands, in August this year. It was less than four minutes away from base. The inquest was told that post mortem examinations on 12 of the victims showed they died from multiple injuries which caused instantaneous death. The body of the third man has not been recovered. Group Captain Anthony Balfour, an RAF consultant pathologist said the injuries resulted from a violent impact. "It was sufficiently violent to cause the fuselage to collapse, and for the heavy transmission components to come down and strike the passengers on the head," he said. Flight Sergeant Jerry Ward, of Air Traffic Control at RAF Coltishall, said he heard a Mayday distress call from the pilot, Capt. Basil Breach, aged 51, of Harley Road, Great Yarmouth. A transcript of a tape-recording of the call said "Golf Whisky India is ditching—engine failure." Sgt Ward asked the helicopter's position, but there was no reply and he alerted a rescue helicopter. Counsel representing the family of one of the victims asked if the pilot had mentioned rotor blades. Segent Ward said that was not possible. The message was so short, and only a few words

were said, one of which was "engine". Mr William Holmes, an air traffic controller employed by Bristow's at Great Yarmouth heliport, said he heard the distress call as "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday—Whisky India ditching—engine failure". Mr Holmes added there had not been any radio report of a fault previously, but Captain Breach "would have called had there been anything wrong." The coroner was told the helicopter had been cleared to fly at a height of 1,500 feet. The victims were: Captain Breach, Mr Adrian Amis, aged 37, a cabin attendant, of Byron Way, Caister, Norfolk; Mr Ian Cullen, aged 39, and Mr James Fairclough, aged 37, both of North Walsham, Norfolk; Mr Gordon Errington, aged 38, of Lorrimer's Close, Peterlee, Co Durham; Mr Charles Wayland, aged 37, of Peasland Green, Easing, Norfolk; Mr Thomas Smith, aged 27, of Sunningdale, Wickham, Tyne and Wear; Mr Anthony Green, aged 31, of Ackers Lane, Stockton Heath, Warrington; Mr Brian Nulton, aged 29, of Ranscomb Road, Brixham; Mr Douglas Brown, aged 39, of Millers Lane, Norwich; Mr Stephen Harvey, aged 28, of St George's Close, Thurton, Norfolk; Mr Peter Lawrence, aged 57, of West Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire; and the victim whose body has not been recovered, Mr Robert Phillips, aged 41, of Queensway, Wyndham, Norfolk. Mr Geoffrey Wilkinson, the Department of Trade chief accident investigator, said that he had been unable to pinpoint the cause of the crash. Seventy-five per cent of the Wessex 60 helicopter had not been recovered as it was buried under 12 feet of seabed sand.

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Drug gang leader gets 10 years and £250,000 fine

A gang of cannabis smugglers received sentences ranging from 18 months to 10 years, and fines totalling more than £675,000 at the Central Criminal Court, London yesterday for their part in "Operation Cyril".

The team of 13 men made an estimated £40m by smuggling "cannabis by the ton" into a tiny Cornish cove at Talland Bay, between 1975 and 1979, the court was told. After a two-month trial, Judge Richard Lowry jailed the gang for a total of 55 years. He told them: "The scale of this case makes long sentences unavoidable." He said vast sums were made, going into millions of pounds.

"All the defendants deliberately chose to deal in drugs, and big and wacky money was the lure. Cannabis was selected because it is easy to acquire and easy to sell, and vast profits could be, and were made in the process."

Robert Mills, bookmaker, who was the mastermind of the gang, received the longest sentence, 10 years. He was also fined £250,000 and ordered to pay prosecution costs not exceeding £50,000.

The judge told him: "You are the most prominent person in this story. You have abilities and engaging qualities." But, he added, Mills' career as a smuggler was "worthless in human terms and disruptive to the community".

Before sentencing the 13, six of whom admitted their

part in the operation, the judge said he had no powers to take money from any of the defendants' bank accounts. "The court's powers are limited by Acts of Parliament. Parliament had not contemplated a case on this scale when the various statutes were enacted."

The gang had chosen cannabis, as it could be acquired and sold easily. The drug was brought from North Africa on board a converted radar equipped fishing boat, Guiding Light. The millions made from drug sales, estimated at £40m over the years, in cash, went into a City bank.

Mills, aged 41, of Otto Street, Waltham, South-east London, used his race-course activities as a cover for cash.

Before he was sentenced, the court heard from his counsel, Mr Robin Simpson, QC, that most of his assets had gone. Money in Swiss bank accounts and £163,500 found in his accounts at two streatham banks on his arrest were used up.

Two Gibraltarians, Ambrose Vinales, aged 51, bank manager, and Edward Victory, aged 57, businessman — were jailed for nine years and 18 months respectively. Victory was also fined £250,000 and ordered to pay costs not exceeding £50,000.

Vinales, who transferred cash from the drug sales to his native country where it was "laundered", was also fined £140,000.

Trevor Coles, aged 40, financial consultant, of Ays-

Repaired portrait of Princess on show

By Christopher Warman Arts Correspondent

The portrait of the Princess of Wales by Bryan Organ, which was severely damaged when it was slashed with a knife in August, was back on display at the National Portrait Gallery, London, yesterday fully restored and protected by an unbreakable perspex screen.

As a result of the attack, Bryan Organ's portrait of the Princess of Wales and Annigoni's picture of the Queen have also been covered with a perspex screen. The decision was taken reluctantly, and Annigoni objected because a screen alters the colours and makes a picture more difficult to view because of reflected light.

The Princess's portrait was so badly damaged that there were fears it might not be adequately restored. But the cuts have been so skilfully repaired the damage is scarcely visible. Only through close scrutiny can the slightest sign of repair be detected.

Dr John Hayes, director of the gallery, said he was delighted with the result. The artist was also full of praise for Mr Peter Newman, who spent about 100 hours relining the canvas, which had suffered three large cuts and been ripped, and Mr John Bull, who restored the painting. "They have done a fantastic job," Dr Hayes said.

He said the cost of restoration would exceed £1,000,

Mixed ability teaching shows a decline in secondaries

By Diana Gaddes, Education Correspondent

Contrary to common belief, the use of mixed ability teaching in the early years of secondary schools has declined slightly in recent years, while the use of sets, or graded ability groups for different subjects, has increased, sharply, a report published today says.

The report gives the findings of a three-year research project by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) into the emotive issue of mixed ability teaching. The subject involves children of all abilities being taught together in the same class.

That form of class organization has been the target of much heated criticism, particularly from right-wing educationists, who hold it in large part responsible for the alleged decline in academic standard.

Those hoping for a cut-and-dried judgment on the merits or otherwise of mixed ability teaching will be disappointed, however. The report concludes that there are no certain results, positive or negative, which can be assumed to follow inevitably from mixed ability grouping or, probably, from any other form of class organization.

The main advantages claimed for keeping children in mixed ability groups in the early years of secondary schooling were that it gave pupils a fresh start and helped avoid the labelling of pupils; it avoided the creation of disaffected "sink" groups,

sometimes produced by dividing children into separate streams according to their level of ability; and it helped create a community which favoured certain aspects of personal and social development, and which was conducive to improved behaviour among pupils and greater work satisfaction among teachers.

To be set against that, were the main disadvantages reported by teachers. Those included lowered attainment among more able pupils, difficulties experienced by the less able, and an increased burden on teachers.

Mixed ability teaching is far less widespread in comprehensive schools than is commonly supposed. The foundations' survey of nearly 600 schools, carried out last year, indicates that while just over half of all schools use mixed ability groups for most of the curriculum in the first year, only 18 per cent continue to do so in the third year, compared with 25 per cent in 1975.

Despite being up to three years behind English children in attainment on entering primary school and facing continuing linguistic difficulties, most Asian children more than catch up by the time they leave school, the National Association of Head Teachers says in a report published yesterday.

The report, on the education needs and attainment of Asian children, had been

drawn up by two working parties of head-teachers, one in London and the other in the Midlands. It forms evidence to the committee of inquiry into the education of children from ethnic minority groups, which is by Lord Swann.

The report identifies some of the disadvantages encountered by Asian children, particularly in their pre-school years.

Many Asian children had been confined to the home with a mother or grandmother who spoke little or no English, and also had little opportunity for physical exercise. But the children were able to cooperate totally, and many were highly motivated, though they needed strongly structured teaching methods.

By the time they were seven most had acquired a linguistic "survival kit", though few could read and write English at the appropriate level for their age. The strong influence of the Muslim religion on Asian families made life doubly difficult for Asian pupils. From an early age, many were having to cope with two hours of extra schooling in the evenings at the mosque.

Mixed ability teaching: problems and possibilities, by Margaret Reid, Louise Chunn, Ross, Brian Goucher and Carol Vile. (NFER-Nelson Publishing Company, Darville House, 2 Oxford Road, Exeter, Devon, EX4 3DF, £5.95).

GPs better able to control pain of cancer

By Annabel Ferriman Health Services Correspondent

Family doctors are becoming better able to control the pain suffered by patients dying of cancer, according to Dame Cicely Saunders, the pioneer of the hospice movement.

Older general practitioners had proved one of the groups most resistant to the movement's aims of improving pain control and providing extra medical support for terminally ill patients and their families. Dame Cicely was speaking at the launch of a new book on the hospice movement, published yesterday. She said that some older doctors had taken the view that they had been caring for dying patients for years and did not need advice on how to do it better.

But the care they provided was improving, she said. A study carried out by Dame Cicely Saunders, Sydenham, South London, comparing a group of patients admitted to the hospice and local hospitals in 1969 with a similar group in 1979 showed that the pain the patients were suffering on admission was much better controlled in the second group than the first.

Dame Cicely, who took up medicine at the age of 33, having worked as a nurse and a social worker, said that although the hospice idea was being used more and more by teams of specialists working in hospitals rather than by groups putting up purpose-built units, the latter would always be needed. Separate hospices would be necessary to welcome patients whose illness was too difficult to handle on the ordinary wards and to carry out research, as St Christopher's did.

Dame Cicely founded St Christopher's in 1967, having worked for seven years at St Joseph's Hospice, Hackney. It is financed partly by the Department of Health and Voluntary donations, and partly by the National Cancer Research Institute. It is facing an acute shortage of funds, needing another £200,000 to carry it through to the end of the financial year. If it could not find the money, it might have to close a ward, she said. The hospice, which has 62 beds, is constantly oversubscribed, and has to turn away about a third of those who apply to it.

Hospice: The Living Idea, Edited by Dame Cicely Saunders, Dorothy Summer, and Neville Turner. (Edward Arnold, £5.50).

STATE AID TO FARMS ATTACKED

By John Young Agriculture Correspondent

The "unregulated use of national aid to farmers threatened the whole basis of the common agricultural policy, the National Farmers' Union said yesterday in evidence to the Commons Agricultural Committee.

The procedures laid down for dealing with national aid had proved to be ineffective, it said. Article 93 of the Treaty of Rome, which required governments to forewarn the European Commission of plans to grant or alter aid, was frequently ignored.

Calling for effective action against states which distorted competition, the union suggested that the Commission might be empowered to levy countervailing duties on the exports of offenders.

The union referred specifically to the continued sale of gas at subsidised prices to Dutch growers of glasshouse produce. Since the corporation responsible, Nederlandse Gasunie, was 50 per cent state-owned, the argument was that a commercial agreement was unconvincing.

Cheap rail fares to be extended

Rail travellers from London to the provinces will be offered cheap off-peak fares from January under a British Rail plan to extend its financially successful into-London discount fares, which cut by about two-thirds normal ticket prices.

BR is also planning other big changes in its discounted fares structure, it was indicated in Phoenix, Arizona, by Mr Peter Keen, BR's chief passenger manager, at the annual conference of the Association of British Travel Agents (Derek Harris writes from Phoenix).

The level of prices to be charged on off-peak travel out of London was still not finalized, Mr Keen said. The reductions might not be as great as those needed to stimulate traffic to London.

The new scheme, as yet unnamed, follows the success of the "London Savers" promotion, which operates from all provincial stations with a booking office. There are no fixed quantities, but a typical discount is £9 for a return ticket from Liverpool to London compared with the ordinary price of about £32.

London Savers were launched in October after earlier test marketing and BR has established that the scheme is both generating volume traffic and making a profit. Volume traffic on the Liverpool route had almost doubled, with revenue up 10 per cent, Mr Keen said.

Profitability was up because the additional operating costs involved in the off-peak operation were extremely low. The fares from London are expected to apply to nearly all provincial destinations.

The new scheme will be followed by a much more fundamental review of BR's fare structure, Mr Keen added. But that would be after the success of the scheme was assessed.

One strategy being considered by BR is to simplify the discounting structure. It also wants to appeal more strongly to group travel. Family rates, for example, were running at 100,000 but that was only a fraction of the number of families that were potential customers. Those holding family rail cards were on average spending £100 a year on rail journeys.

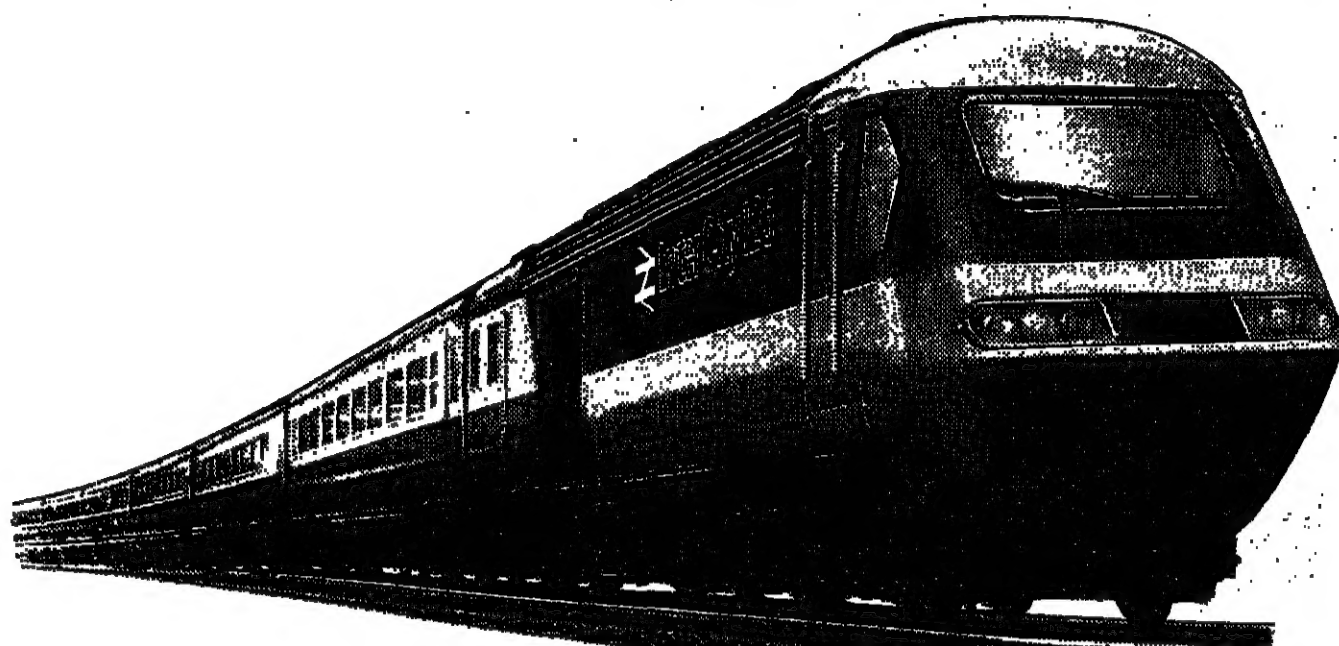
THE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS

British Rail's investment per train/Km is lower than that of any other major railway in Western Europe. If Britain wants a worthwhile railway system in future, people will have to appreciate the importance of railways as they have done in other countries.

Investment in the railways is a sound and sensible use of money. This so-called monopoly can behave adventurously, can stand up to competition and can justify its role in the economy.

Do not forget that in 1979, before the recession, British Rail's recorded passenger miles were actually higher than in 1961, when the rail network was thirty per cent larger and there were only half as many cars on the road.

This is one of a series of advertisements designed to increase public awareness of the position of the railways in the national transport system and also in the life of the community as a whole. Whilst the facts and figures contained in these advertisements are known and appreciated by those directly concerned in shaping the future, an industry as much in the limelight as ours has a duty to address itself to a wider audience, which needs to be well informed if it is to play its part in helping to form public opinion.



In theory, a monopoly has no competition...

It's true that British Rail operates the only national railway system in the country. By definition, that should make us a monopoly.

By implication, we should therefore enjoy a cosy existence, sheltered from competition, insensitive to customers' needs, complacent and unadventurous.

Nothing could be further from the truth. **COMPETITION IN EVERY SECTOR**

On the passenger side intense competition comes from over 15 million private and company cars owned in this country. Owners who use their own cars on business benefit from high car allowances. And people with company cars (of which Britain has more than anywhere else in Europe) usually have only to find marginal costs, like petrol, out of their own pockets for their private travel. Not surprisingly, the incentive to use the car is considerable.

Air services provide vigorous competition for British Rail's Inter-City trains, and nowadays long distance coaches compete for our business much more actively than before.

In the freight sector, competition is similarly intense. We don't benefit, as road hauliers do, from

the UK licensing laws—for example, there is no "quantity" licensing, as in Germany and France, to limit the amount of freight to travel by road. What's more, the heaviest goods vehicles are continuing to receive considerable subsidies.

FINANCIAL BURDENS—WHAT ABOUT FINANCIAL FLEXIBILITY?

We have a statutory obligation to run services which are socially necessary but financially unviable. This is known as the Public Service Obligation—the basis of the annual "contract" between the Government and British Rail. In these terms British Rail is the least supported major railway in Europe.

If British Rail does not use up the whole of the contract payment in any year the residue cannot be "credited" to the next year.

Monopolies generally enjoy more financial flexibility—and muscle—than other business. But not British Rail. Instead British Rail is restricted by the rules and conventions which apply throughout the UK public sector where, for example, each industry has its External Financing Limit. This represents the maximum sum in terms of "outside finance" that any public sector industry can call on each year.



This is the age of the train ➡

Crosby tests how severely faith has been undermined in the old political alignments

For hope, for protest but mostly for Williams

By John Witherow and John Chartres

Disaffection with both Labour — because of party wrangling — and Conservative, because of the state of the economy, clearly influenced voters who were ready to state their support for the Social Democrats and Shirley Williams at Crosby yesterday. Clearly also the candidate's own personality was playing a winning part. Views offered at polling stations in the largely Labour area of Seaford, in the south of the constituency, included:

Mrs Valerie Fairbrother, aged 32, a housewife, who had always voted Labour, said: "I wouldn't vote for Thatcher. She's robbed everybody. Shirley Williams is going to do something for the public and she won't line her own pockets. She's more for the people, and I want to give them a chance. But if they don't do well I won't vote for them again."

Mr Daniel and Mrs Ellen Brown, aged 68 and 63, retired; he has voted always Labour and she has voted Conservative. "We think things are getting so bad, maybe we need somebody else to shake things up," Mrs Brown said. "I think Margaret Thatcher has got the right idea but her policies are a bit harsh," Mr Brown said. "Mrs Williams is a very good person but we are voting for the party, not her."

Mrs Mary Tushy, aged 68, a retired confectioner: "I admire Shirley Williams because she had the courage to leave the Labour Party. I didn't vote Conservative because I want change. Shirley Williams has got nice principles and if she hadn't stood I would have voted Conservative."

Mr Michael Roberts, aged 18, unemployed, and voting for the first time: "I wouldn't vote Conservative and the Labour Party is all over the place. So why not try something new? The SDP seems to be all the parties rolled into one. I don't want to abandon nuclear weapons, we need some kind of deterrent."

Mr William and Mrs Lilian Robinson, accountant and shop assistant, have consistently voted Tory: "We're not political and we voted for her for fun. We don't think the SDP will really be any different from anyone else. But we like Shirley Williams. She comes in an old mac with her ruffled hair and she doesn't talk down to you like Margaret Thatcher. This is a one-off. We only voted for Shirley."

Mr Stanley and Mrs Marian Baker, aged 66 and 68, retired. He is a former painter and decorator: "We voted for Shirley Williams to get the Tories out. I've always voted Labour and have been a trade unionist and sat on committees of the Labour Party. If Labour stood a chance of winning here I would have voted for them. It's a protest vote against the government. I'm not opposed to the Labour candidates."

In the centre of "old Crosby" Mr William Lightfoot, aged 78, pensioner, said he had changed his lifelong Conservative voting habit to the SDP/Liberal Alliance because he did not like the way pensioners were being affected by the economy.

In Formby, Mr David Davies, sales executive aged 38, and his wife, Valerie, 37, said they had voted for Mrs Williams after nearly 20 years' support of Labour.

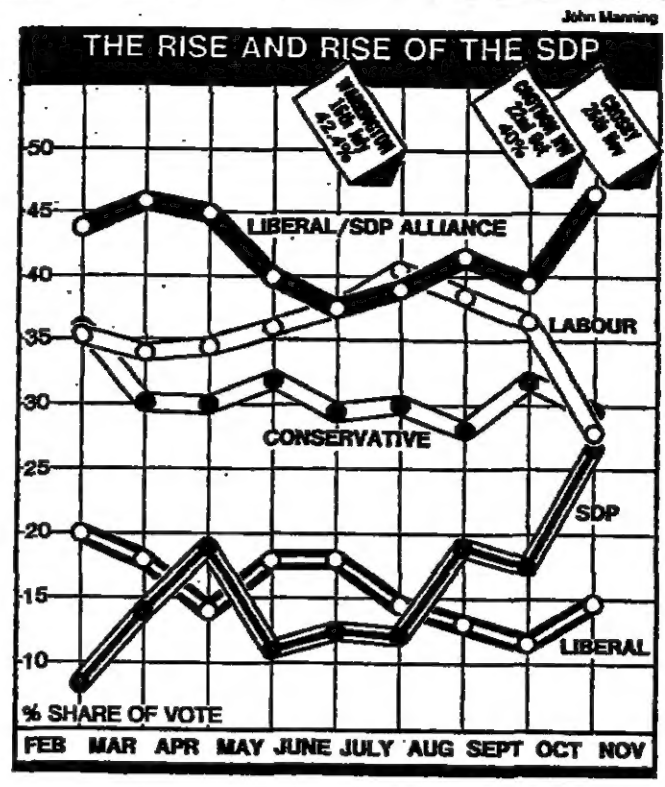
Mr Robert Sinclair, a 32 year old railway porter from Davenham Road, said that he had voted for Mrs Williams, having previously voted Liberal.

In Waterloo, a predominantly Conservative area, SDP voters offered these comments: Mr Robert and Mrs Edith Hayward, aged 39 and 37. He is an unemployed textile worker, she is a housewife both formerly voted Labour: "The Conservatives in this neighbourhood have reigned long enough and there is too much going on in the Labour Party with members antagonising each other."

Mr Frederick Thomas, aged 64, retired bank messenger, formerly Conservative: "I'm not voting for the Communists, which is at the heart of the Labour Party, and couldn't vote for the Conservatives because of the mess they have got us into."



The smiling faces of alliance: David Steel, Roy Jenkins and Shirley Williams. Right: Party standings this year in the Gallup poll. The top line plots response to the "prompted" question how voters would choose if Liberal-SDP Alliance candidates were standing. The result is higher than combined responses for Liberal and SDP alone and close to actual results.



Local voting share matches national polls

By Ian Bradley

The SDP-Liberal Alliance is now winning about two-thirds of the seats it is contesting in local government by-elections and, if anything, its success rate is increasing.

According to figures obtained from the two parties since the beginning of July, the SDP has won 35 seats on county, district and borough councils and the Liberals have gained 48 seats from other parties as well as holding 10 seats. In that period the Conservatives have lost 40 seats and Labour 27.

In the past three weeks, the Liberals have contested 14 local government by-elections, winning seven and holding two. Precise details of the number of seats contested by the SDP are not available, but the party says that it has won 19 seats in that period.

Overall, so far this month the alliance has taken 10 seats from the Conservatives and seven from Labour. The SDP has gained seats in Southwark, Selby (North Yorkshire), Crediton (Devon), Shoreham, Witton (Cheshire), Newbridge (Gwent), Harwich, Bridgnorth (Salop), Hemel Hempstead, Lancaster, mid-Sussex, Adur Valley and Idwyl (Wales). The Liberals have gained seats in Stockton, Chester-le-Street, north Cornwall, Truro, mid-Devon, Harwich and mid-Sussex.

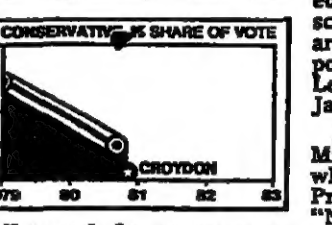
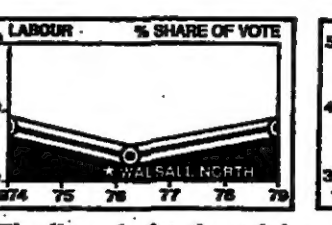
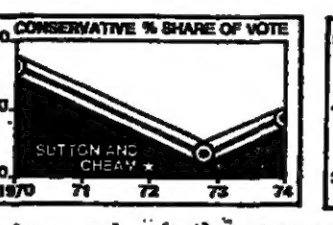
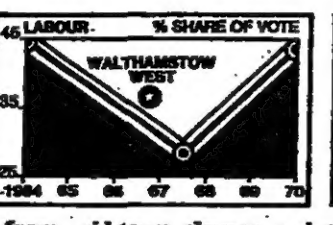
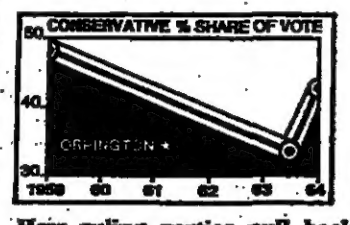
The most detailed analysis of the alliance's progress in local by-elections has been made by Mr Peter Kellner, political editor of the *New Statesman*. His latest compilation of results is published today.

It shows that since October 22 the alliance has won 38 of 57 local government contests. The breakdown of the total vote cast in those contests is:

Liberal/SDP 46 per cent, Labour 27 per cent and Conservative 25 per cent.

That share-out of the vote is very similar to the findings of opinion polls about national voting intentions, averaged out over the past three months. The average of the findings of MORI polls over that period, for example, shows the Alliance with 42 per cent of the vote, Labour with 31 per cent and the Conservatives with 26 per cent.

The swing from the Conservatives to the Alliance since the last general election, represented by the local by-election results (23 per cent), is also almost the same as in the Croydon by-election (24 per cent). It is this extraordinary coincidence of figures from local government by-elections, parliamentary by-election results and the findings of opinion polls which has led psephologists to see the Alliance's popularity as something more than a mid-term flash in the pan.



How ruling parties pull back from mid-term slumps and their worst by-election reverses. The lines depict the opinion poll trough for governments since 1953, and the flattening slope of recovery from their worst by-elections.

The quick mind of a quicker dresser

By George Clark

Open, approachable, controversial, Mrs Shirley Williams is the journalist's perfect politician. Over the years she has shown a willingness to be quoted on almost every subject under the sun.

"Sorry, I'm late" is probably one of her classic remarks.

And again: "I am a very disorderly person. My mind is organized, but my habits are not. No matter where I am, I live in a state of considerable squalor." (*Evening News*, December 5, 1973).

Here is a selection of quotations which reflect her character and her attitude to politics:

"I'm only prepared to spend 10 minutes dressing, so what can you expect? ... You might well say, why am I in public life at all? I just don't understand it at all. Perhaps it is because I have confidence in my mind, but not in the way I look." *The Guardian*, August 2, 1971.

"If I got fed up with the Labour Party, I should simply leave politics altogether." *The Daily Telegraph*, June 13, 1979.

"I would not join a centre party because I believe the whole idea is wrong... So far as I am concerned, I will always be in a party to the left of centre." *The Sunday Telegraph*, November 30, 1980.

"Modern Trotskyism, like the Trotskyism of Trotsky himself, holds liberty and democracy in total contempt. Its vision of socialism has nothing to do with the British Labour Party's vision." *The Guardian*, January 22, 1977.

"The party I loved and worked for over so many years no longer exists... It is not the democratic socialist party that I joined." — Letter to Mr Ron Hayward, general secretary of the Labour Party, February 10, 1981.

"As a party, we just have not caught on to the fact that the woman voter often decides differently from her husband... The concentration on industry, the balance of payments, trade union questions, does not appeal much to most women. We must get across to them that we do care about pensions and schools, poverty and ill health." — After Labour's defeat in 1979.

"One of the fields chiefly responsible for the continued poverty, or the level of expectation of girls is the mass media. You have a particular responsibility to see that the image of woman put before our daughters is no longer that of an auxiliary, accessory and essentially secondary creature." — Address to Women in Media, June 28, 1973.

"We want to get real muscle behind consumer protection. We do not want to leave shoppers out on their own... We will back you by law." — To Labour Party women's conference, June, 1974.

"Elections are like actresses: their moods can change suddenly. In this election, the central question is how to curb inflation, but so far we have not really confronted it." *The Times*, February 18, 1974.

"Mrs Thatcher [when dealing with male colleagues] does not import sex into it. But she does import a tremendous scolding-mother or headmistress thing. She seems to adopt all the stereotypes of the authoritarian woman, and it is quite impressive in a way, the queen, the governess, the nanny, the headmistress, the matron — she strikes the lot." *The Observer*, March 22, 1981.

"Roy [Jenkins] likes claret, so what? I drink Hiron-delle, so what? None of us leads a particularly posh life, and in any event a liking for good food and drink is as common among the left as anywhere." *The Sunday Times*, April 5, 1981.

"We intend to ensure that all secondary pupils are educated in comprehensive schools and will, if necessary, take fresh statutory powers to ensure this." — Letter to Mr Ron Hayward, January 1, 1978.

Asked, when she was Minister of Education, whether she wanted to be Prime Minister she replied: "No — this job is tough enough." *Women's Own*, August 6, 1977.

As you can see, advertisers of alcohol are not given much licence!

To advertise alcohol, you have to keep on the straight and narrow, as can be seen from the rules on this page.

They appear in the British Code of Advertising Practice. In it are many rules, not just affecting the advertising of alcohol. They govern all advertisements which appear in the press, in direct mail, in print, on posters and cinema commercials.

The Code is used by the Advertising Standards Authority whose job it is to protect the public from unacceptable advertising. And, as its name suggests, to keep advertising standards high.

Amongst other things, the ASA responds to consumers' complaints about advertisements, and this briefly is the way the system works.

Members of the public can write in to us to complain about any advertisement they find unacceptable. If, after investigation, we find the advertisement contravenes the Code, we instruct the

Appendix J Advertising for alcoholic drinks

Introduction

1.1 Moderate drinking is widely enjoyed and helps to make social occasions cheerful and pleasant.

1.2 The Alcoholic Drinks Industry, with others, is aware that a small, but significant minority cause harm to themselves and others through misuse of alcohol. They share the concern about this social problem, the causes of which are complex and varied. There is no evidence connecting such misuse with the advertising of alcoholic drinks.

1.3 The industry is concerned that its advertisements should not exploit the immature, the young, the socially insecure, or those with physical, mental or social incapacity. The industry accepts that its advertising should be socially responsible and should not encourage excessive consumption.

1.4 The industry believes that it is proper for advertisements for alcoholic drinks:

1. to indicate that they give pleasure to many are of high quality and are widely enjoyed in all classes of society.
2. to seek to persuade people to change brands and/or types of drinks.
3. to provide information on products.
4. to employ such accepted techniques of advertising practice as are employed by other product groups and are not inconsistent with the detailed rules.

Implementation and Interpretation

2.1 The industry has therefore proposed the following rules for inclusion in the British Code of Advertising Practice. The CAP Committee has accepted this proposal and the Advertising Standards Authority has agreed to supervise the implementation of the rules.

2.2 The rules are to be interpreted in the light of the considerations set out in paragraphs 1.1 to 1.4 above. So far as the scope and general interpretation of the rules is concerned, the provisions of the British Code of Advertising Practice apply, as they do to those aspects of advertisements for drink not covered by the rules.

2.3 "Drink" for the purposes of this Appendix is to be understood as referring to alcoholic beverages and their consumption.

Rules

Young People

3.1 Advertisements should not be directed at young people nor in any way encourage them to start drinking. Anyone shown drinking must appear to be over 21. Children should not be depicted in advertisements except where it would be usual for them to appear (e.g. in family scenes or in background crowds) but they should never be shown drinking alcoholic beverages, nor should it be implied that they are.

Challenge

3.2 Advertisements should not be based on a dare, nor impute any failing to those who do not accept the challenge of a particular drink.

Health

3.3 Advertisements should not emphasise the stimulant, sedative or tranquillising effects of any drink, nor imply that it can improve physical performance. However, references to the refreshing attributes of a drink are permissible.

Strength

3.4 Advertisements should not give the general impression of being inducements to prefer a drink because of its higher alcohol content or intoxicating effect. Factual information for the guidance of drinkers about such alcoholic strength may, however, be included.

Social Success

3.5 Advertisements may emphasise the pleasures of companionship and social communication associated with the consumption of alcoholic drinks, but it should never be implied that drinking is necessary to social or business success or distinction, nor that those who do not drink are less likely to be acceptable or successful than those who do. Advertisements should neither claim nor suggest that any drink can contribute towards sexual success, or make the drinker more attractive to the opposite sex.

Drinking and Machinery

3.6 Advertisements should not associate drink with driving or dangerous machinery. Specific warnings of the dangers of drinking in these circumstances may, however, be used.

Excessive Drinking

3.7 Advertisements should not encourage or appear to condone overindulgence. Repeated buying of large rounds should not be implied.

advertiser to amend or withdraw it.

If you'd like to know more about the Code affecting alcohol advertising or about us, or if you have any cause to complain about an advertisement, we'd like to hear from you.

If an advertiser breaks any one of the rules, we won't let him get off lightly.

The Advertising Standards Authority.
If an advertisement is wrong, we're here to put it right.

ASA Ltd, Brook House, Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HN.

Question of immoral purpose is for the jury to decide

Regina v Grey
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Taylor and Mr Justice McCullough.
[Judgment delivered November 26]

The question whether the purposes of homosexual activity were "immoral purposes" within section 32 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 was a jury question, and when a jury refused to leave the question to the jury and directed them that such purposes were immoral, there was both a material irregularity in the course of the trial and a misdirection by the judge.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by James Burns McWilliams Grey, aged 31, an accounts clerk of Earl's Court, London, from conviction at the Central Criminal Court (Judge Clarke) of having contravened section 32 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 by having sexual intercourse with a woman in a public place in August 1979. An appeal against sentence of nine months' imprisonment suspended for two years was allowed and a fine of £100 substituted.

Mr Brian Langstaff (assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant, Mr Stephen Clayton for the Crown.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the prosecution evidence was that a plain clothes police officer was waiting in a doorway in Earl's Court at night, when, as frequently occurred then, many male homosexuals were congregating outside a public house. The appellant, who was sauntering around and smiling at and speaking to other people, then smiled at the officer, clearly believing him to be a homosexual. After a short conversation the officer was invited by the appellant back to his flat where, he said, there was whisky and they could both spend the night. His purpose could only have been that they should have homosexual relations at the flat.

The appellant in evidence stated that he had gone to the place hoping to find a shop open where he could buy food for his cat and, being a homosexual, liked in view of the spectacle outside the public house. He spoke only to the officer and invited him to the flat for whisky but had not said anything about staying the night and doing that, whereas soliciting in public for the purposes of heterosexual prostitution was to remain

looked miserable and out of place and, the appellant thought, might be having difficulty in coming to terms with a homosexual condition and be helped by conversation with someone who had experienced the same problems. The appellant was a former member of an organization which gave advice to homosexuals.

The judge made it clear to the jury that they should not convict the appellant unless they were sure that his purpose was to engage in some homosexual activity with anyone he might persuade to go home with him. When Mr Langstaff had begun to ask the jury to consider whether they were sure that the appellant's purpose, if it was to engage in such activity, amounted to "immoral purposes", he was interrupted by the judge and told in the jury's presence that he proposed to direct them that as a matter of law such purposes were immoral.

In *R v Ford (Graham)* ([1977] 1 WLR 803) the question had been left to the jury and whether it was necessary to do so was not in argument. In *Crook v Edmondson* ([1966] QB 81) two members of the court apparently treated the question as one of law. Without expressing any view whether that decision was right, their Lordships in the present case thought, as Lord Widgery said in *Ford*, that the question was one for the jury.

The judge directed the jury that it was no longer an offence for two adult males to behave sexually with each other in private but had in effect said that, if the purpose of one was to take another home for private homosexual activity, they might think, although it was a matter for them, that despite the fact that such activity was lawful the purpose was immoral.

Their Lordships were satisfied that Mr Langstaff was right in saying that the judge failed to leave the question to the jury. There was, therefore, both a material irregularity in that he was prevented from deploying his argument, and a misdirection.

His Lordship reviewed the legislative history from 1896 and stated that from 1967 onwards Parliament's intention or contemplation could not have been that, whereas soliciting in public for the purposes of heterosexual prostitution was to remain

unlawful, it would or might be lawful for some homosexuals and even some homosexual prostitutes to solicit in public. Whether *Crook v Edmondson* was correctly decided, Parliament in using the phrase "immoral purposes" had no intention of excluding importuning by males for the purposes of engaging in homosexual activity.

Plainly from the verdict the jury rejected the appellant's evidence and accepted the police officer's. That being so, their Lordships had to ask themselves whether they thought it possible that, having heard Mr Langstaff's argument and having been properly directed, the jury could have done other than convict.

In asking themselves that question their Lordships were conscious of the fact that in the field of contemporary morals judges might not be best fitted to assess the attitudes of the mass of right thinking members of society. But the views of Parliament might be regarded as reflective of such opinion, and taking them into account as they appeared from the legislative history and making due allowance for the passage of years since 1967 they found strong confirmation of their own belief as to the attitudes of society in general.

It was a belief shared by the members of the court in *Ford* and, more importantly, by every member of the jury who tried that case. For those reasons their Lordships had concluded that, once the appellant's evidence was rejected and that of the officer accepted, the jury would inevitably have convicted. On that aspect of the matter there was nothing unsafe or unsatisfactory about the conviction.

It was a case in which it would be right to apply the proviso to section 2 (1) of the Criminal Appeal Act, 1968 and to dismiss the appeal against conviction on the ground that no miscarriage of justice had occurred. Solicitors: Solicitor, Metropolitan Police.

In *Hunter v Chief Constable of the West Midlands Police and Others* (The Times November 26) the name of Mr Brian Hill, Preston, was omitted from the list of solicitors.

In *Hyde v Pearce* (The Times November 26) instructing solicitors for the plaintiff were Mr. H. Greet & Co, Bristol, who replaced Vale, Benson in April 1981.

Dia and Another v Mayor and Burgesses of the London Borough of Wandsworth
Before Lord Wilberforce, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Russell of Killowen, Lord Lowry and Lord Bridge of Harwich.
[Speeches delivered November 26]

The House of Lords by a majority (Lord Russell and Lord Bridge dissenting), held that under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977 a local housing authority was entitled to treat an applicant as having rendered himself intentionally homeless where he had moved out of a house voluntarily instead of staying on until he was evicted by a court order for possession.

The House dismissed an appeal by Mr Tai Dia and his wife from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Widgery and Lord Justice Cocker, Lord Justice Donaldson dissenting, The Times, June 30), which had allowed an appeal by Mr Dia and his wife from a decision of the Wandsworth County Council under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977.

Mr Dia, a family of four children, moved into accommodation in Trinity Road, Wandsworth, in 1977, but they got into difficulties over the payment of rent and rates. They sought advice from the local housing authority and were advised that before they could be helped there would have to be a court order.

In August 1979, the Dia family left Trinity Road and went to live with a relative in a flat in Upminster which was far too small for a prolonged stay. Mr Dia had hoped to get employment at Ford Motors at Dagenham, but was unsuccessful. He returned in November to his former job in Wandsworth. Commuting from Upminster proved too expensive, so he took a temporary room in Wandsworth. By December, the tensions in the Upminster flat were such that his family had to leave.

On December 20, Mr Dia and his wife went to Wandsworth aid centre claiming to be homeless. The authorities made inquiries and decided that the family were intentionally homeless within the terms of section 17 of the 1977 Act.

Judge White, in their action for damages and an injunction, said that the family's application was not made until about four months after they first became homeless and that by the end of December they would have been homeless in any event. He concluded that the council had not taken that fact into account, for if they had done so they

could not have decided that the family were intentionally homeless. He awarded them interest, damages and a declaration that the local authority's determination was void. The Court of Appeal by a majority reversed that order.

Section 17 provides: "(1) For the purposes of this Act a person becomes homeless intentionally if he deliberately does or fails to do anything in consequence of which he ceases to occupy accommodation which is available for his occupation and which it would have been reasonable for him to continue to occupy."

(3) An act or omission in good faith on the part of a person who is unaware of any relevant fact is not to be treated as deliberate for the purposes of subsection (1).

(4) Regard may be had, in determining for the purposes of subsection (1) whether a person has acted deliberately, whether it would have been reasonable for a person to continue to occupy accommodation, to the general circumstances prevailing in relation to housing in the area of the housing authority to whom he applied for accommodation or for assistance in obtaining accommodation.

Mr Stephen Sedley and Mr Nicholas Blake for the applicants, Mr Anthony Scriven QC, and Mr Geoffrey Stephenson for the local authority.

LORD WILBERFORCE, dismissing the appeal, said that the question was, or ought to be, whether the housing aid centre in refusing the Dias' application in December 1979 on the ground that they were intentionally homeless acted in law. His Lordship said "ought to be" because the procedure adopted by the Dias was to sue the local authority in the county court for damages and a mandatory injunction to house them. That resulted in a trial with witnesses of issues of fact.

The 1977 Act was an important measure imposing for the first time on housing authorities a duty to accommodate or assist homeless persons. There had been previous legislative provisions for the benefit of the homeless but they suffered from weakness of definition and of means of enforcement. The 1977 Act made use of provisions of the Housing Act 1957 relating to families occupying unsatisfactory housing conditions by bringing homeless persons within it and imposing on local authorities independent duties under that Act.

In applying and interpreting

the 1977 Act it was important to bear in mind:

(1) It was designed for the expressed purpose of bringing together the local authority's duty to house and the local authority's duty to provide accommodation for persons in need of housing.

(2) It formed part of a complex of duties which local authorities owed to categories of persons in need of housing. Those persons were normally placed on a waiting list and were given accommodation on a points system of priority. Inevitably, allocation of priority housing to homeless persons must have the effect of deferring the hopes of persons in other categories, some of whom might have been waiting for a long time.

(3) A decision against priority treatment under the Act did not mean that nothing could be done for the homeless applicant. They could join the waiting list for a council tenancy — Mrs Dia did so in June 1979 — or they could seek nomination to a housing association. With advice, they could seek private sector housing, with temporary accommodation meanwhile.

As the Act recognised, conditions might and did differ greatly from one authority to another, and those might be taken into account. The Act must be interpreted in the light of those matters, with liberty having regard to its social purposes, and also with recognition of the claims of other aid and the nature and scale of local authorities' responsibilities.

It appeared that the Secretary of State had power under section 12 to give guidance to local authorities, and that he had done so through a prescribed code of guidance. That emphasized that it was for the authorities to satisfy themselves whether the applicant became homeless intentionally and that careful and sensitive inquiries would be important.

Lordship summarized the relevant statutory provisions. Section 4 defined the duties of local authorities. If they were satisfied that a person was homeless, or threatened with homelessness, and that he had a priority need, but were also satisfied that he became homeless intentionally, the duty was to furnish him with advice and appropriate assistance.

But not satisfied that he became homeless intentionally, the duty was to secure that accommodation was made available for him. That was subject to certain considerations as to local conditions within the authority's area. The words "are satisfied" had to be noted; they left the decision, on those issues of fact, to the local authority. On well known principle, there was no appeal to a court against such a decision, but it might be subject to judicial review for error in law, including no doubt absence of any material on which the decision could reasonably be reached.

Section 3 contained safeguards as regarded any decision of a local authority. The applicant had to be notified of it, and, in particular, if the authority notified him that they were satisfied that he became homeless intentionally, they must notify him of their reasons. On those provisions the Dias' case had to be decided. Could they successfully challenge the local authority's decision that it was satisfied that they became homeless intentionally within the section 17(1) definition?

His Lordship said that he had reservations as to proceedings in the county court. The local authority was carrying out statutory functions and was required to make a decision based on findings of fact. Its decision could be the subject of judicial review but county courts had no power to make that. A local authority's decision, if made in good faith, was not liable to be quashed by a court of law. It was not a decision which could be the subject of judicial review but county courts had no power to make that. A local authority's decision, if made in good faith, was not liable to be quashed by a court of law. It was not a decision which could be the subject of judicial review but county courts had no power to make that.

Mr Dia in his evidence said that the only reason that compelled him to quit 55 Trinity Road was a rate demand. He was scared. A council officer confirmed that that was what Mr Dia told the housing centre. The head of the housing department said that the reason why the local authority generally issued orders for possession was because of the impossible shortage of accommodation. A few weeks were of extreme importance on financial grounds and as affecting the pressure on the stock.

He did not accept that Mr Dia had to leave Trinity Road in June 1979, though he accepted that in December "there was no possibility of him staying. That implication, at repeated times, on that evidence was to be noted.

So how did the matter stand? If one took the words of the Act, the council had to be satisfied that the applicants became homeless intentionally. Under section 17(1) their duty was to furnish them with advice and assistance if they were satisfied that they became homeless intentionally. The local authority had to look at the time of decision (the present) the local authority had to look at the time of decision (the present) the local authority had to look at the time of decision (the present).

If that was the right approach there could only be one answer: when the Dias left Trinity Road their action was intentional and the council was entitled to find that it would have been reasonable for the Dias to continue to occupy their Trinity Road home.

The applicants' argument against that was that whatever might have been the position in July 1979 when they left Trinity Road they would at the time of the decision in December 1979 have been homeless in any event. The original cause of homelessness, even if intentional, had ceased to operate. For section 17 to apply the Dias had to be a causal link between the intentional action and the homelessness subsisting at the time of the decision. On the facts of the case there was not so the decision was wrong in law. His Lordship could not accept that argument.

It could not be reconciled with the words of the Act. That was completely and repeatedly clear in concentrating attention on when the applicants became homeless and requiring the intention to be ascertained at that time. To achieve the result desired by the applicants would need either distortion of or reading in a number of words. Both were radical and awkward reconstructions of section 17.

LORD FRASER, concurring in dismissing the appeal, said that the question was raised by the fact that by December 1979, the Dias family would in any event have been evicted from Trinity Road accommodation. In his Lordship's view the Dias' case was the opposite of the present case. His Lordship understood the reasoning of those of their Lordships with whom he differed but he preferred to consider the statute more broadly, though not seeking to add to the language. The inquiries and conclusions of the authority fell to be made at (or after) the application. Was the applicant then homeless? Had he then a priority need? But applying the investigation of the question whether he became homeless intentionally, which was to be made at the time of the decision, was directed to why he was homeless then. If on the facts established in the present case the applicant would be homeless in any event, the past circumstances in which the homelessness originated appeared to be no longer relevant.

LORD LOWRY, dismissing the appeal, commented on the volume of litigation resulting from decisions of housing authorities in their administration of the Act. All that strongly indicated the need for Parliament to review the legislation in the light of experience. There was here no question of queue-jumping or other commercial conduct. But applying the law to the facts his Lordship was coerced to hold that the applicants lost their priority by becoming homeless in a relevant way.

LORD BRIDGE, for allowing the appeal, said that it raised the question of how the 1977 Act applied to a person with a priority need who voluntarily left accommodation prematurely. That expression was used to describe the action of a person whose tenure of accommodation had become so precarious, owing to circumstances for which he could not be held responsible, that he could reasonably be expected to leave it at any time. Within some reasonable period he would have to leave in any event, but who chose to move out at a time when the housing authority could properly con-

clude that it would have been reasonable for him to continue to occupy.

The case of a person who received a summons for possession with a hearing date two months ahead, who recognized that he would have no defence to that claim, and moved out immediately. On a date, say four months later, being homeless and in priority need, he applied to the housing authority for accommodation under the Act. The authority might take the view that on receipt of the summons it would have been reasonable for him to continue to occupy at least until the hearing of the summons but that when the summons was heard an order for possession to take effect within at most a few weeks would have been made. What was their duty?

Under the Act there were three questions, relevant for present purposes, which the housing authority must ask and answer: (i) Had he a priority need? (ii) Did he become homeless intentionally? (iii) Applying the formula in section 17(1), was he homeless?

On the first two questions, the authority were clearly concerned with the applicant's circumstances at the date of application. It would be absurd to hold that the housing authority were at liberty to rely on any past act or omission of the applicant which satisfied section 17 formula but which was not causally related to the applicant's present state of homelessness.

Thus on the true construction of sections 3 and 4 and in the application of section 17(1), the question might be asked: "Is the applicant's present homelessness the result of a deliberate act or omission of his part in consequence of which he ceased to occupy accommodation which was available for his occupation at the time he applied to the housing authority?"

Asking that question in the circumstances of the Dias' case, the person who left accommodation prematurely when he received the summons for possession, the housing authority must not, under the Act, give a negative answer. By the time he applied for accommodation the fact that he had previously been homeless was no longer relevant. He would now be homeless in any event.

His Lordship considered that the question of whether the applicant was homeless at the time he applied for accommodation was a question of fact. It was a question of fact which the housing authority was to decide. It was a question of fact which the housing authority was to decide. It was a question of fact which the housing authority was to decide.

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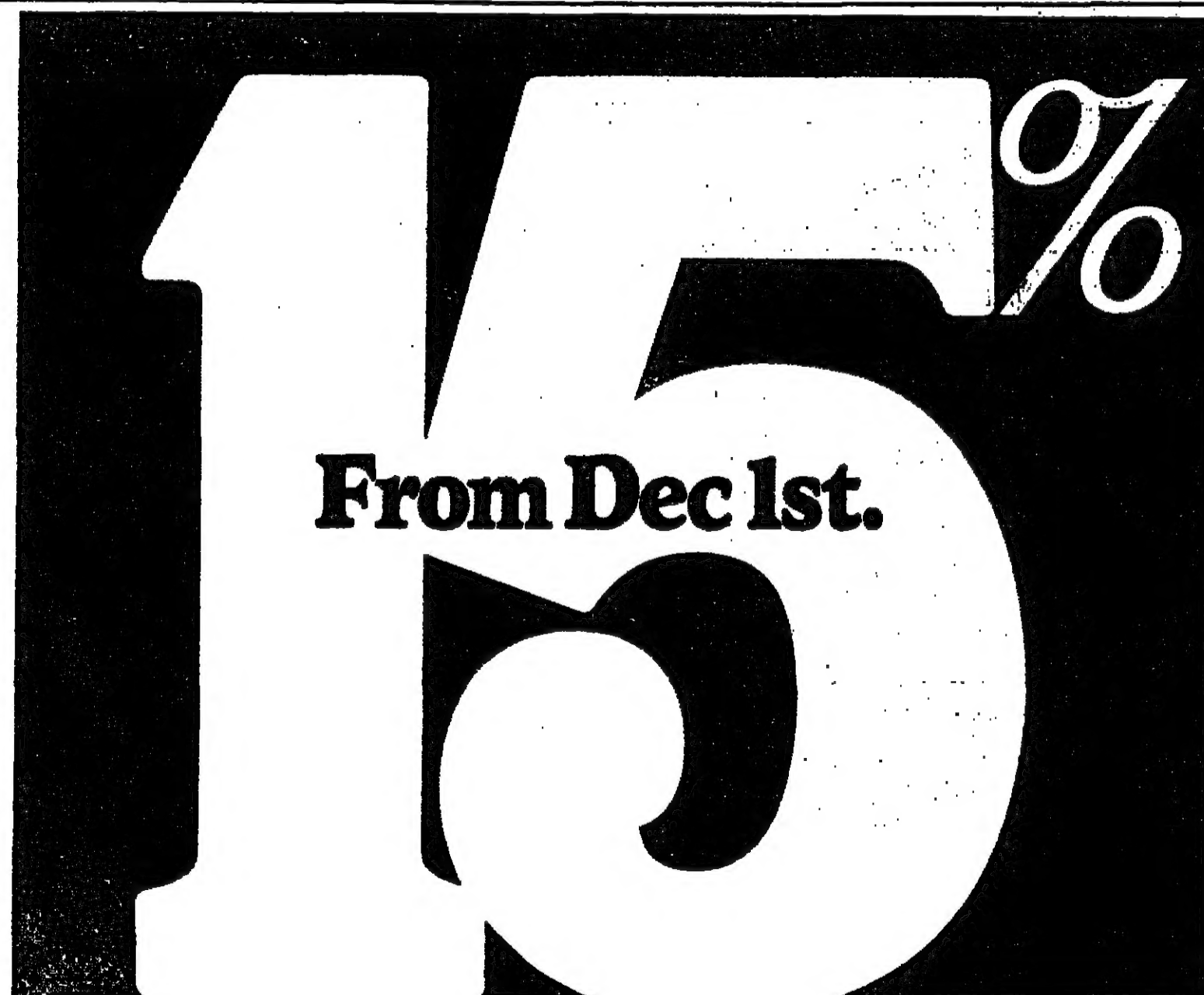
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LORD RUSSELL, for allowing the appeal, said that the correct conclusion was that the Dias family would in any event have been evicted from Trinity Road accommodation. In his Lordship's view the Dias' case was the opposite of the present case.

His Lordship understood the reasoning of those of their Lordships with whom he differed but he preferred to consider the statute more broadly, though not seeking to add to the language. The inquiries and conclusions of the authority fell to be made at (or after) the application. Was the applicant then homeless? Had he then a priority need? But applying the investigation of the question whether he became homeless intentionally, which was to be made at the time of the decision, was directed to why he was homeless then. If on the facts established in the present case the applicant would be homeless in any event, the past circumstances in which the homelessness originated appeared to be no longer relevant.



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Solicitor as agent

Lawrence Chemical Company Ltd v Rubinstein and Others.
A declaration signed by a solicitor on behalf of a company that goods and chattels stored on industrial premises were subject to a lien in favour of the company, which had been lent by the superior landlord for arrears of rent, was valid under the provisions of section 1 of the Law of Distress Amendment Act 1908. The Court of Appeal (Sir Justice McNeill, Lord Justice O'Connor, Sir Stanley Reed) allowed an appeal on November 16 from the decision of the county court judge (Mr Justice McNeill) in an interlocutory injunction restraining the respondents from selling or disposing of the goods and chattels.

THE PRESIDENT said that Mr Justice McNeill had taken the view that the declaration had to be signed by a director or secretary of the company. It was not a declaration of the company, in the present case the solicitor had been authorized by oral instruction from the director of the company. The principle of

agency applied. There was a sufficient compliance with the requirements of the Act of 1908 by the signing of the declaration by the solicitor who was the authorized agent of the company. Lord Justice O'Connor and Sir Stanley Reed agreed.

NO 'YORK' IN TRADE MARK
In re York Trailer Holdings Ltd.
The House of Lords (Lord Wilberforce, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Russell of Killowen, Lord Lowry and Lord Bridge of Harwich) allowed an appeal from Mr Justice Graham in the Registrar of Trade Marks and held that an application by a manufacturer to register a trade mark incorporating the word "York" had been correctly refused by the registrar. *Lawrence Chemical Company Ltd v Rubinstein and Others* (1981) 4 RPC 59, as approved in *Yorkshire Copper Works Ltd's Application* (1980) 71 RPC 150, applied.

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Moscow detects change of tone in Washington

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Nov 26

The Russians today openly acknowledged that President Reagan's visit to Bonn ended in disagreement on the central issue of arms control in Europe, but declared the talks a success because both sides had tried to build bridges rather than deepen trenches. At the same time a leading Soviet ideologist and several influential newspapers have significantly moderated their attacks on President Reagan's recent proposals for arms control, and spoken of a change of tone in Washington. Though the change cannot be linked directly to the Bonn talks, the Russians are clearly ready to approach the Geneva negotiations more constructively than a week ago.

Mr. Brezhnev returned to a warm welcome yesterday. The Soviet press immediately hailed the results of his visit, his third to West Germany within a decade, as a pointer to the future and a reaffirmation of the principle of good-neighbourly relations. As expected, the Soviet leader has been effusively praised for his "mission of goodwill".

For Moscow, the visit has achieved several important things. On the eve of the Geneva talks it has put the Soviet viewpoint in the forefront of the world's attention, and the Russians have heard Herr Helmut Schmidt, the influential West German Chancellor, publicly declare the Soviet Union was sincere in its search for peace.

It has shown that in spite of Afghanistan the Russians are still able to engage in serious dialogue with the West. It has underlined the importance of Soviet-West German relations, especially in the economic field, and thus preserved the cornerstone of Mr. Brezhnev's policy of détente, a word now used again by Herr Schmidt.

It has demonstrated to Russians at home that Mr. Brezhnev, who is nearly 75 and frequently in poor health, is still able to cope with complex issues and lead sensitive negotiations overseas.

Nevertheless, the differences between both sides have been bluntly acknowledged, both in the final communiqué and in the Soviet Press. If the Russians were looking for a wavering in the West German commitment to accept new Nato missiles, they were disappointed.

The renewed Soviet call for a moratorium in the deployment of all medium-range weapons was again rejected. And the other Soviet proposals drew equally sparse response, whether from the West German Government or from the European peace movements on which the Russians have placed so much importance.

There has been some movement on the Soviet side, however. The Russians have had to respond to Presi-

dent Reagan's call, warmly supported in much of Europe, for a "zero option". They have put forward a utopian version of their own which includes all weapons, including tactical weapons, and all the forces Moscow would like to discuss at Geneva. But Moscow now appears to be ready to work by stages, as suggested by Herr Schmidt, towards such a utopia.

More importantly, Moscow now appears ready to consider Mr. Reagan's proposals at least as an American negotiating position. Soviet rejection of his plan is still categorical. Mr. Brezhnev and Mr. Leonid Zamyatin, his official spokesman, set out their objections in Bonn.

But although Herr Schmidt complained that the Russians were incapable of properly appreciating the American offer, Soviet ideologists are now saying that the important point was that after so much warlike talk Washington was now taking a softer line.

Mr. Boris Ponomarev, an influential candidate member of the Politburo, told a Prague meeting of Soviet block ideologists that the Soviet Union was ready to discuss all disarmament issues with the Americans. He implicitly suggested that if the Reagan offer was not simply propaganda, as the Russians have branded it, the Soviet Union would be ready to accept it.

Mr. Ponomarev said that the Soviet Union was ready to discuss all disarmament issues with the Americans. He implicitly suggested that if the Reagan offer was not simply propaganda, as the Russians have branded it, the Soviet Union would be ready to accept it.

His speech was probably prepared before the Bonn visit and there is no evidence that Herr Schmidt's mediation caused a change of line. The Russians may have wanted to sweeten the atmosphere before Geneva in any case.

But, significantly, other commentators here are now echoing this more positive assessment. *Literaturnaya Gazeta* said yesterday that the Reagan offer was full of tricks and could not be taken seriously by thinking people. "But this is not the main point. The most important thing is that Mr. Reagan has spoken about peace and about negotiations, including talks about reducing arms in Europe," it added.

Nevertheless, the attacks on the Reagan Administration's other policies and statements have remained as sharp as ever. *Tass* today again denounced American plans for a limited nuclear war, while other papers continue to suggest that the Americans are aiming only for military superiority.

Vienna, Nov 26.—President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania said last night that American and Soviet offers on nuclear disarmament have revived hopes for a Europe free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Ceausescu, the only Soviet block leader not to dismiss President Reagan's offer for a mutual ban on medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, told the Romanian party central committee he welcomed President Brezhnev's proposals in Bonn earlier this week.

We also assess as a positive element the statement recently made by the President of the United States," Mr. Ceausescu said, according to the official Agerpres news agency. "Undoubtedly, essential differences exist between the statements of the Soviet and American leaders. But we consider the basic element is that the two sides wish to reach an understanding... on the arms control continent from the atomic weapon."

In a reference to next week's United States-Soviet disarmament talks, Mr. Ceausescu said: "These statements revive the hope of European and world opinion that at the negotiations in Geneva... action will be taken for reaching accord on the elimination of both medium-range nuclear weapons and of any kind of nuclear armament from Europe."

Reuters

Support for Schmidt

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Nov 26

President Reagan has told Herr Helmut Schmidt that he was very encouraged by the Chancellor's two days of talks with President Brezhnev, a Government spokesman said today.

The Chancellor reported to the President in a 20-minute telephone conversation yesterday on the outcome of the talks, which were dominated by the forthcoming missile negotiations in Geneva.

Herr Lothar Rühl, the spokesman, said President Reagan expressed his satisfaction. He said the Chancellor's firm attitude and the course the talks took were "very encouraging".

He also reiterated the point, which the Chancellor had repeatedly emphasized to the Soviet leader that the United States is determined to negotiate seriously on a

Geneva: Two tough protagonists in front line

The Russians will face one of America's shrewdest and toughest negotiators when talks between the two countries on reducing medium-range missiles in Europe open in Geneva on Monday (Nicholas Ashford writes from Washington).

Mr Paul Nitze earned himself the reputation of a "super-hawk" during the debate over the second Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (Salt 2) negotiated by the Carter Administration.

But no matter how much his critics disagreed with him on this issue, they acknowledged that he did his homework assiduously and had wide experience in national security affairs.

Mr Nitze will draw on that experience in the talks on intermediate range missiles in Europe which are expected to be lengthy and tough. As a member of the Salt 1 team, he is familiar with the negotiating approach used by the Russians in arms talks.

As a bitter critic of Salt 2, his mere presence at the negotiating table will be sufficient to tell the Russians that they cannot expect to reach an agreement which in any way might leave either the United States or its Nato allies at a disadvantage.

Urbane, articulate and silver-haired, Mr Nitze, aged 74, has served nearly all presidents since the Second World War.

Since that time, when he was vice-chairman of the United States Strategic Bombing Survey, a post that gave him a first-hand look at the effects of the atomic bombs on Japan, he has held a host of positions in government and business rising to become Deputy Secretary of Defence under President Johnson.

But it will be his experience as a member of the Salt 1 negotiating team between 1969 to 1974 that will be most important during the forthcoming talks. He resigned in 1974 when it became clear that what he called the Watergate "crimes" of President Nixon had undermined the American negotiating position.

According to an interview Mr Nitze gave to the *Christian Science Monitor*, his experience in negotiating with the Russians taught him that "they understand strength and firmness, but do not necessarily respond to unilateral restraint".

Mr Nitze became a strong critic of the Salt 2 agreement and led the campaign against its Senate ratification, because he believed it gave a clear military advantage to the Soviet Union.

He maintained that the United States had fallen badly behind the Soviet Union in the arms race as a result of Salt 2, opening up what President Reagan has described as a "window of vulnerability".

Mr Nitze's first talks will be to explain to the Russians President Reagan's offer to forgo the deployment of 572 Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe if the Soviet Union will dismantle its SS20s and similar medium-range missiles.

President Brezhnev has rejected this challenge and has instead offered to reduce unilaterally "a certain portion" of the Soviet Union's medium-range missile force. This is an offer which Mr Nitze is likely to treat with extreme caution.



Paul Nitze: Super-hawk who does homework.

President Reagan said yesterday that he is convinced that if Geneva has a chance of success, it is because the United States has decided to re-arm.

"I think one of the things going for us in these negotiations is that this is the first time that we have sat at the table opposite them in which they have got some interest in coming together in the negotiations because we are not busily disarming ourselves," he said in a television interview.

"Now they know that we have the determination to go ahead... on this defence programme."

The Soviet Union has picked one of its cleverest young diplomats for Geneva (Our Foreign Staff writes). Outwardly Mr Yuli Aleksandrovich Kvitsinsky, who is 45, fits many people's ideas of the typical Soviet diplomat.

He is pale, pudgy and somewhat ungainly-looking. When the situation demands it he can be as dull, cold, plodding and stubbornly repetitive as the apparition of the old textbooks. But he can also open up when necessary, and in private he can be witty and amusing, with a good fund of jokes.

Westerners who have come into contact with him regard him as a skilled professional diplomat, exceptionally clever and well aware of the fact he has a quick mind and a well-sharpened ability to spot weakness in an opponent's argument.

He does not suffer from the "tunnel vision" of earlier generations of Soviet diplomats. He has a good understanding of the Western world, and particularly of West Germany, where he served from 1978 as number two in the Soviet embassy.

He is also no stranger to East-West negotiations. He was on the Soviet delegation which negotiated the Quadripartite Agreement on Berlin, signed in 1971. He also served briefly in 1973 at the Vienna talks on troop reductions in Europe, and was an adviser to the Soviet delegation at the United Nations General Assembly in 1976.

Born on September 23, 1936, into a family which moved from Poland to Russia in the last century, he claims to speak Polish, and knows some English. He studied German and Norwegian (which he also speaks well) at Moscow University, and literature. He smokes and



Yuli Kvitsinsky: Will spot any weakness.

drinks but is self-disciplined by Russian standards. As a negotiator he will be under close instruction from Moscow but he is thought sufficiently well trusted to be allowed some room for flexibility. His personality will also be important in his reporting back to Moscow, which doubtless chose him as a person able to deal with the exceptionally complex issues at stake in the talks.

Among the open questions is whether he will exploit his case to the West German public through press or television interview, though this would mean a break with normal Soviet diplomatic practice.

Spain wins approval for joining Nato

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Nov 26

The Spanish Government obtained final approval today which a 106 to 60 vote in the Senate for its main foreign policy initiative—joining Nato.

This clears the way for Madrid to send a signal to Brussels, perhaps from tomorrow's Cabinet meeting, in time for the Nato ministerial council meeting which begins on December 10.

The lower house of the Spanish Parliament gave its approval on October 29. On both occasions the Socialists voted against, having promised to hold a referendum on the issue should the opposition party win power at the next general election. A referendum was refused by the Caelo Sotelo Government.

The Senate confirmed the stipulation that there will be no Nato nuclear weapons on Spanish soil but the approved text leaves to parliament an eventual revision of this article. Madrid had hoped to win approval to join Nato last month.

It now seems likely that the governments of Nato member countries will warmly welcome the Spanish initiative, with the formal signing in the new year.

The government badly needed today's success because it suffered its first serious defeat in Parliament last night as the lower house debates the budget. Five members of the breakaway Social Democratic wing of the ruling party completely surprised the Government by siding with the opposition in a snap vote.

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MIDDLE EAST IN THE BALANCE

Counting the cost of Saudi failure

From Geoffrey Morrison, Fez, Nov 26

Delegations to the aborted Arab summit were packing their bags here today. The main debate among delegates was to decide who had won and who had lost.

This year's Arab summit, originally expected to last three days, collapsed after only five and a half hours, broken by the Arab world's deep disagreement about the Saudi formula for peace in the Middle East.

Arab hard-liners, such as Libya, Iraq and Syria, were in no doubt that the decision of King Hassan of Morocco to suspend the summit indicated a victory for the Saudis.

They bitterly opposed Crown Prince Fahd's eight-point peace plan which by recognizing the right of all states in the region to live in peace, was widely interpreted as offering implicit recognition to Israel.

Mr Abdul Ati al-Osidi, the Libyan Foreign Minister, said today: "We consider that the plan has been completely wiped out and we hope that it will not be discussed again."

But he added: "I wish the summit had rejected the plan so we can get rid of its implications once and for all."

Conference sources said the decision to break off the summit was taken by King Hassan, the conference chairman, in consultation with Prince Fahd, both of them realizing that wholehearted endorsement of the plan was impossible.

Only agreement at the highest level can ensure that the summit was seriously weakened by the fact that seven of the 20 states represented failed to send their head of state or chief executive.

The final blow to any realistic hope of success came only hours before the conference opened with the announcement that President Assad of Syria would not attend, despite previous indications that he would attend.

Conference sources said that at one point during a heated exchange with Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, Syria's Foreign Minister and chief delegate, King Hassan emphasized the subordinate status of a foreign minister by holding up a pen before him and declaring "with this pen I can make peace or war."

Despite the diplomatic debacle, the long and at times byzantine search for Arab consensus continues, of particular interest today was a reliable report that Mr Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and Crown Prince Fahd were holding private talks.

Israel gloats quietly over collapse of Arab summit in Fez

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Nov 26

The collapse of the twelfth Arab summit in Fez has given considerable satisfaction to an Israeli Government which had been growing increasingly concerned about the influence of Saudi Arabia over the Reagan Administration and other Western governments.

A senior Israeli official claimed today that the breakdown demonstrated the lack of Saudi influence in the Arab world, the low opinion which many Arab governments held of the Saudi leadership, and the fact that oil money did not necessarily equal influence among the Arab nations.

The official, who was briefing correspondents on Israel's analysis of the manoeuvrings at Fez, said: "It demonstrated clearly just what you can and cannot get out of Saudi Arabia. The Saudis have put a lot of energy in trying to win acceptance for their ideas. For them, it is a real setback."

Although it has not been said publicly, there is a widespread hope in Israel that the collapse of the summit will provide a lesson to those Western nations, particularly America and Britain, which have recently invested arms and political faith in backing the Saudi regime.

Israel believes that the failure of the Saudis to bring round either Syria or Iraq has vindicated its argument that the Saudi Government is intrinsically weak. "The result," said the official, "is a real measure of the status and political clout of Saudi Arabia."

While regarding the collapse of the summit as a total victory for the rejectionist states, particularly Syria, Israel also sees the result of the failed deliberations as strengthening the position of the new Egyptian Government of President Mubarak in the Arab world.

Explaining this, the Israeli official said:

"Because the Arab edifice is weakened, it automatically makes Egypt stronger. The result of the summit has been to demonstrate to Egypt that the Arab fold which opposed it (because of Camp David) is not as fearsome as it looked to be."

Although officials have been unable to disguise their satisfaction at what is seen here as the humiliation of the Saudis, Israeli ministers had by early tonight restrained themselves from any public gloating over the result.

At today's briefing, the senior officials (who like many other Israelis had watched the proceedings at Fez on Jordanian television) claimed that one regrettable consequence was the difficulty of seeing how, in the present circumstances, the Arab world was in a position to come to terms with Israel.

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Hundreds flee blasts at Haifa ammunition dump

Haifa, Nov 26.—A series of bombs exploded today at an ammunition depot near Haifa and in Jerusalem.

The explosions at the Israeli military camp were started by a fire that broke out as a result of worker negligence, police said. Hundreds of local residents rushed into air raid shelters.

Firemen quickly brought the blaze under control but cases of ammunition continued to explode for almost three hours with many artillery shells flying outside the depot.

The two bombs that exploded in Jerusalem injured one man and caused extensive damage to a shop, police said. An earlier explosion in a different part of the city caused slight damage.

Palestinian guerrillas in Damascus claimed responsibility for the Jerusalem explosions which they said had caused casualties and set fire to shops. They said a third bomb had been spotted and defused shortly before it was due to go off.

Israeli troops detained about 70 Arabs after the blasts but the guerrillas escaped, according to the Palestinian spokesman.—APR, Reuter.



PRO-PLO PAPER SUSPENDED

Al Fair, a pro-Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Arabic daily newspaper that is published in Jerusalem, was suspended today for the second time this month.

Announcing the one-month suspension order, an Israeli Ministry of Interior spokesman said that since the paper had resumed publication it had published material liable to endanger public welfare, alluding to its coverage of the murder of Yusef el Khazir, a moderate Palestinian denounced by the PLO as a Qaisling.

Mr Hannu Seniors, the editor, in a statement broadcast by Israeli radio, said the suspended article had not incited terror since it had been published in the English-language section of the newspaper. He said he would appeal.

The paper was ordered to close for 10 days on November 9 for breaches of censorship procedures.

Army chief delivers ultimatum on Sinai

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem, Nov 26

Lieutenant-General Rafael Eitan, the Israeli Chief of Staff, said today that Israel would not withdraw from the remaining one-third of occupied Sinai next April if the international peacekeeping force were not established by then.

Mr Eitan, who said that he was speaking for Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, said that such a refusal would be in accordance with the Camp David agreement, Israeli radio reported.

Mr Eitan, in his most forthright public comment on the matter told the Hebrew afternoon paper *Ma'ariv* that he would instruct the Cabinet to block the participation of the four EEC nations when it meets to take a final decision on Sunday. He added that he was prepared to take full responsibility for the decision.

At the same time, Mr Begin met Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, who has accepted an eleven-hour invitation to fly to Washington for talks with Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, which will centre on the threatened Israeli veto.

Mr Shamir is expected back in Jerusalem for Sunday's decision.

After his preparatory meeting with Mr Begin and the Defence Minister, Mr Shamir told reporters that there was no room for flexibility in Israel's opposition to European participation in the Force under the terms laid down in the Camp David agreement.

Mr Shamir claimed that while there were differences on the issue with the United States, there had been no American pressure on Israel. Diplomatic observers expect the position to change when Mr Shamir reaches Washington, with Mr Haig attempting to exert maximum leverage to EEC contingent.

In his interview today, Mr Begin explained that he will produce documents at Sunday's meeting to back his argument that the additions made by the European governments to their basic four-point offer to join the Force contradict the Camp David agreement. He is expected to win unanimous backing from his ministers.

The exact nature of the American pressure which will be exerted on Mr Shamir is still unclear. But today Israeli radio reported that America had already said refusal to allow European participation would endanger the establishment of the Force and damage the peace process.

The Haig-Shamir meeting comes only days before Israel is hoping to sign a wide-ranging strategic cooperation pact with the United States, and there have been suggestions that the Reagan Administration may try to link this with the negotiations.

But in diplomatic circles, the feeling remains tonight that unless the four European governments offer to change their published conditions for participation, the Israeli veto permitted under the terms of Camp David will be applied.

That conviction was reinforced when Mr Shimon Peres, the Opposition leader, announced today that the Labour Alignment would support the Government in its opposition to European involvement without a change in the conditions.

Speaking after a meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr Peres said: "We think it is rather unwise and completely unnecessary for some European countries to add to Camp David terms which in a way twist the content of Camp David, and in many ways negate it."

With the exception of America, Colombia, Uruguay and Fiji all the other members of the EEC have agreed to national contingents for the 2,500-strong force are understood in some way or other to hinge on European participation.

Warning on over-use of antibiotics

From Our Correspondent, Geneva, Nov 26

The World Health Organization (WHO) is warning about the growing danger of a world-wide recrudescence of infectious diseases such as acute pneumonia, meningitis and cholera, is calling for an end to the excessive use of antibiotics, which has led to the development of resistant bacteria.

Its campaign began with a meeting here this week of bacteriologists working on aspects of antimicrobial resistance. Dr Stuart Levy, Professor of Molecular Biology and Microbiology at Tufts University Medical School, Boston, said that laboratory tests showed a threefold increase in intestinal resistant bacteria over the past five years.

WHO, a United Nations agency, is drawing up recommendations for curbing application of antibiotics, including doctors resisting "social persuasion" in prescribing. For pharmaceutical companies, Dr Levy said, this means "certain drugs will not be used to the same extent."

Dr K B Sharma, of Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi, said they had found resistant bacteria in 80 per cent of hospital patients and 60 per cent of staff.

Italian party congress lacks appeal

From Our Own Correspondent, Rome, Nov 26

The slow start to the Christian Democratic national assembly, called to trace the lines of renewal for Italy's leading party, is causing concern.

The assembly opened yesterday and is intended to continue until Sunday, but most of yesterday was spent listening to a 150-page introductory report read by Signor Luigi Gui, a former minister whose virtues are by no means charismatic.

Today, the debate was limited to the morning followed by a withdrawal into commissions. One of the main points reported on both these opening days is the number of empty seats. There were supposed to have been 600 delegates and 300 guests, but according to one estimate, average attendance was around 400 people.

The Christian Democrats need to convince their own followers that the future will not necessarily see the end of their three decades of rule. But the outlook is disconcerting for them. They no longer have the presidency nor the prime ministership.

Reagan's fight with vanity and modesty

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Nov 26

Home-loving, humble, a good husband and a man with a "soft touch" are some of the impressions of President Reagan conveyed to the homes of millions of Americans today during a special Thanksgiving Day interview he gave to Barbara Walters at his ranch in California.

The interview was part of a profile of the President broadcast on ABC television which also included interviews with his children and his associates.

The interview included discussion of the two men in the Reagan Administration who have been at the centre of controversy—Mr David Stockman, the Budget Director, and Mr Richard Allen, the National Security Adviser. It also covered the budget crisis, his thoughts on the greatest threat facing America and his assessment of his own performance.

The President appeared relaxed as he chatted about how he never managed to excel at school except in sport; the problems of growing up poor during the Depression with a father who was an alcoholic; and how, as a youngster, he had an annoying habit of playing with other people's toys.

Mr Reagan said he had gained the reputation as a politician who only worked regular day-time hours because when he was Governor of California he always made a point of returning home at five in the evening to be with his family. "But I went home with a briefcase full of work," he said.

The President was asked how he would describe himself: "Oh, that's a terrible fight going on inside me between vanity and modesty." He felt he was a "soft touch", although he quickly added, "no doubt reflected on his use of the veto during the budget battle with Congress earlier this week. 'Sometimes I am stubborn, but I hope not unnecessarily so'."

Asked to rate his own performance during his first ten months in office on a scale from "A" for excellence to "F" for failure, the President noted that he had never done better than "C" when he was in college. But he felt his moves to cut spending and taxes rated better than "C".

The President was firm in his defence of Mr Stockman: "David Stockman was not the sinner he was charged against," he said. "It was perfectly natural that Mr Stockman should get together with an old friend to discuss on a non-forfeiture basis the problems he faced."

The President was more guarded in his remarks about Mr Allen who is under investigation because he received \$1,000 (about £500) from a Japanese magazine for helping to arrange an interview with Mrs Nancy Reagan. He noted that the Japanese, who had arranged the payment, had corroborated everything that Mr Allen had said.

He admitted that he would have pardoned Mr Richard Nixon if he had been in President Ford's shoes. It was, he said, the step which had to be taken to end the bitterness.

What was the toughest decision of his Presidency? It could have been last Monday's veto, knowing that he was involved in a "game of chicken" with Congress which could have resulted in Government grinding to a halt.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Oil threat to beaches in Sweden

Stockholm.—An oil tanker spilt most of its cargo on the Soviet Baltic coast after running aground and breaking in half poses a pollution threat to Swedish beaches, a coastguard official said.

With light westerly winds already blowing the heavy fuel oil on to Soviet beaches, Swedish beaches 220 miles due east could be polluted if the wind changed direction, he said.

But the coastguard did not suspect pollution from the Gibraltar-registered *Globe Asini*, around in the Lithuanian port of Klaipeda, to be on the scale of last January's oil spill when more than 40,000 sea birds died near Goteborg.

Iran sues US over arms

Tehran.—Iran has filed a \$1 billion claim against the United States for undelivered arms bought by the late Shah, according to Mr Hassan Nurbakhsh, Governor of the Iran Central Bank.

The claim, filed with an international mediation panel in The Hague, was prepared by the Defence Minister "on the basis of numerous documents showing clearly the sale of American arms to the old regime," Mr Nurbakhsh told the Iranian news agency.

China's flag flies in Hongkong

Hongkong.—For the first time the national emblem of Communist China has been officially displayed in Hongkong. It was established above the entrance to the Chinese Foreign Affairs Ministry's visa office and the Chinese national flag was also unfurled.

The office is on a ground floor of the New China news agency, which is the unofficial headquarters of the Chinese Government in Hongkong. The visa office has a staff of 20 and will speed up the clearance of visas for Chinese and foreigners seeking to visit China.

Two sentenced to death

Kigali.—The Rwandan security court trial of 48 people accused of plotting against President Juvenal Habyarimana has ended with two death sentences, 23 jail sentences of from two to 23 years, and 24 acquittals.

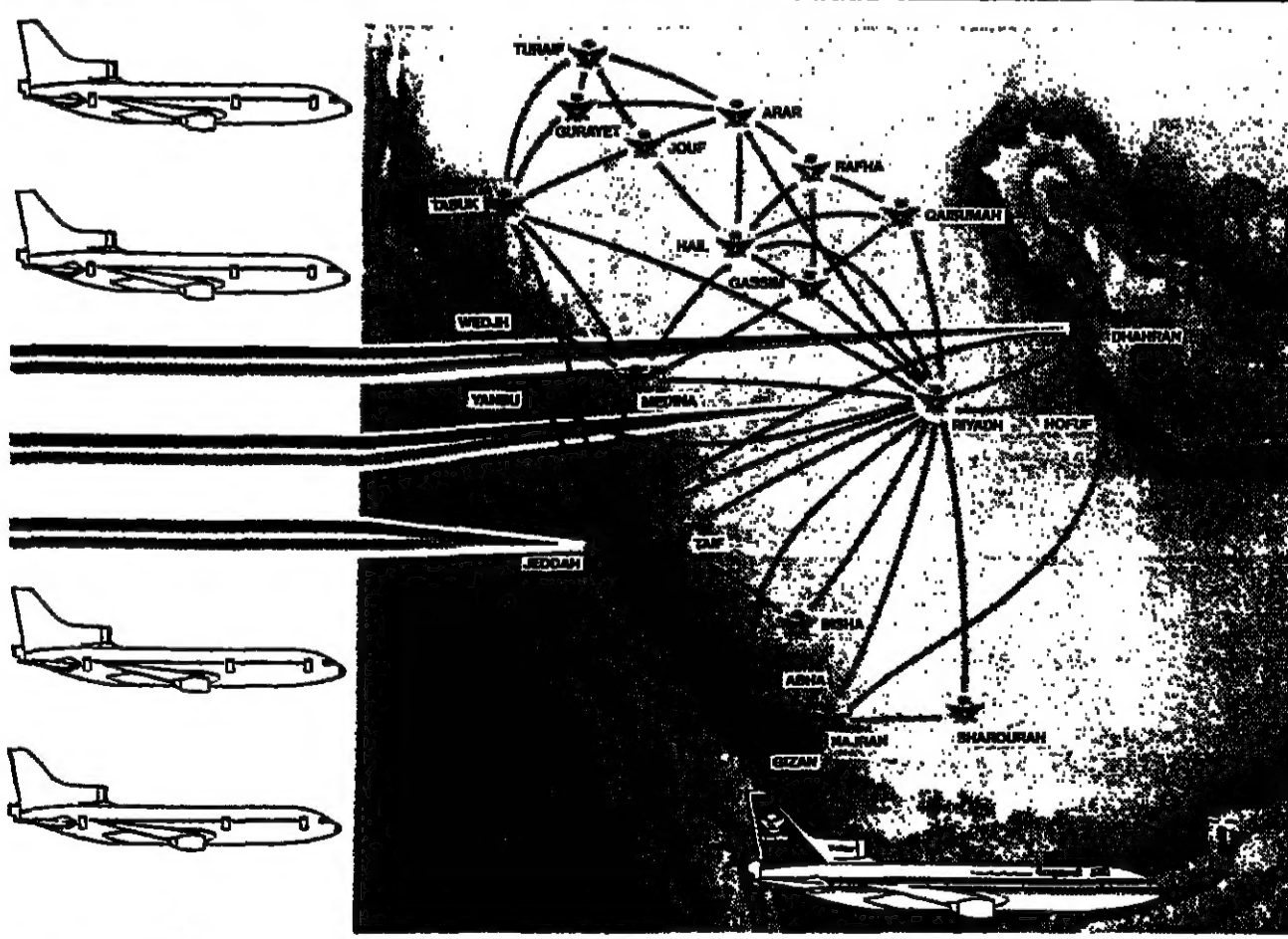
The death sentences were passed in the north-west town of Ruhengeri on Major Theoneste Ndayizeye, a former head of security, and Alphonsse Kagame.

Football hooligans riot in Vienna

Vienna.—Football hooligans, venting their anger over the local Rapid team's defeat by Real of Madrid, attacked Spanish fans, smashed vehicles and damaged other property. Some 350 youths were reportedly involved.

Laser treatment

Tokyo.—Several cancer patients have been successfully treated with laser beams, two teams of Japanese doctors reported at the fourth international convention on laser surgery.



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International Year of Disabled People

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- Who carries the North Sea oil can?
- Is the offshore health and safety record a national scandal?
- What really goes on in hospital mortuaries?
- Do men give cancer to women?
- What does Alf Morris, first minister for the disabled, want next?
- Can the Chinese be persuaded to have one-child families?
- Are we doing the right research on PMT?

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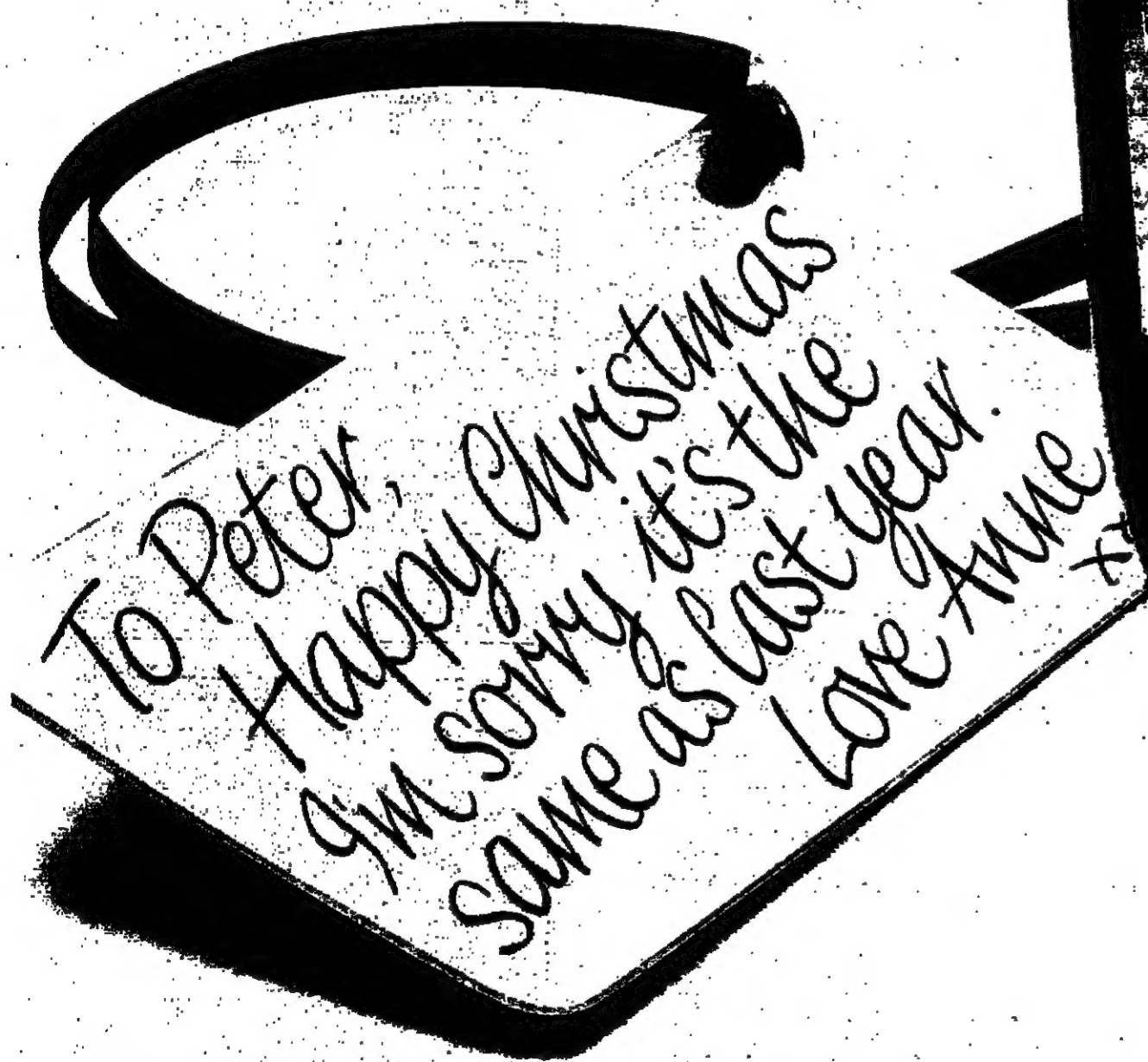
death

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death



NOT that I'm ungrateful, but I've got lots of cuff links. To be quite honest I don't really go for novelty key rings. And how many ties can a man wear? Why can't they all be like Anne?

REMY MARTIN. FINE CHAMPAGNE COGNAC.

DISTILLED ONLY FROM GRAPES GROWN IN GRANDE AND PETITE CHAMPAGNE. COGNAC'S TWO FINEST CRUS.

Ex-soldier thought he worked for secret service CIA named in shooting case

From a Special Correspondent, Fort Collins, Colorado, Nov 26

A former American soldier, who is accused of attempting to murder an opponent of Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, has told a court hearing here that he thought he was working for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) when he called on his victim to deliver a message just over a year ago.

Mr Eugene Tafoya, a burly, bearded former Green Beret, aged 46, claimed that he shot Mr Faisal Zagallai, a 35-year-old Libyan student at the university here, in self-defence.

He said that he had been working as a spy and courier between Libya and various European capitals, including London, for Mr Edwin Wilson, a former CIA agent who is wanted in the United States on charges of supplying the Libyan government with explosives and munitions.

According to Mr Tafoya's testimony, he received a message in London in September, 1980, telling him to

get in touch with Mr Zagallai to tell the Libyan exile to end propaganda efforts which were upsetting relations between Israel and Egypt.

When he called on Mr Zagallai at his apartment in Fort Collins, the latter lost his temper and tried to shoot him with a pistol hidden under a cushion. There was a struggle and the gun which Mr Tafoya was carrying went off, the defendant said.

Although the CIA has denied any connexion with Mr Tafoya, his evidence will inevitably renew speculation that the mysterious Mr Wilson, in exile in Libya, has maintained close ties with his former CIA colleagues in Washington.

Mr Kevin Mulcahy, a former associate of Mr Wilson, has said that he believes the CIA turned a blind eye to Mr Wilson's activities, in return for information about Colonel Gaddafi's regime.

The possible involvement of the CIA in the Tafoya case also came to light during the early stages of the Fort Collins trial when Mr Robert Miller, the United States district judge, ruled that much of the information gathered during the prosecution's inquiries into the case should not be made public.

Among the sealed documents is evidence that Mr Tafoya visited Mr Wilson's homes in Tripoli, Malta and Sussex.

Mr Wilson's English country home is Broxhead farm near Haywards Heath and an organization which he runs to recruit British and American airmen for work in Libya operates from an office in Knox Street, Marylebone, London.

□ Houston: A local oil broker accused of being involved in a gun-running conspiracy may have ties with Mr Wilson and Frank Terpil, a convicted gun-runner, a federal agent said in court today (AP reports).

Quebec tries to block reform

From John Best
Ottawa, Nov 26

A measure to reform and bring home the Canadian constitution moved towards final passage in the House of Commons today, as a new dispute was brewing over a move by Quebec to block the project.

Last night, Mr René Lévesque, the Quebec Premier, announced that his Cabinet had passed an Order in Council declaring the province's intention to veto the reform resolution before Parliament.

The Federal Government's first response was to laugh the move off. Mr Jean Chrétien, the Federal Minister of Justice, said: "He (Mr Lévesque) can pass a decree if he wants that there will be no snow over Quebec this winter. It will have the same effect."

Addressing the Quebec National Assembly in Quebec City, Mr Lévesque cited what he considered a precedent. In 1971, a plan to patriate the constitution was aborted when Quebec decided to withdraw its support.

But Mr Chrétien said that in 1971 the Federal Government had decided not to proceed without Quebec's support. "It's not the same situation now. Only England has a veto right at this time."

Mr Lévesque's announcement appears to dash hopes of a compromise on the three points still dividing him from the Federal Government.



Tender moment alone: Mr Lech Walesa, leader of Poland's Solidarity movement, and his wife, Stasylawa, who are expecting their seventh child

Party to indicate how far it will yield to Solidarity

By Roger Boyes

The Central Committee of the Polish Communist Party holds an important plenary session today, with both the Government and Solidarity, the independent trade union, it is prepared to settle for a consultative role, complete with a veto right. This, and other issues, such as access to the media, should be worked out before there can be any decision on joining the Government's proposed Front of National Understanding.

The government, however, wants to make the joining of a Front of National Understanding the first step before concrete proposals on economic reform are implemented. Solidarity is afraid that the Front will prove to be a hollow, and that the Government is trying to neuter the independent union in advance of serious negotiations on the holding of local elections.

It is difficult to see how this mutual suspicion can be overcome. Solidarity has a certain amount of ground that it can give, but if it yielded their right of veto on government initiatives, there would be considerable discontent from rank and file.

For the ordinary Solidarity member, the veto right would mean that the union had gained another instrument for blocking government policy, and would not therefore have to resort to strikes with the same frequency.

DANES GIVE SPY TO GERMANY

Mr Jörg Meyer, an East German, serving a six-year jail sentence here on spying charges was pardoned and released and turned over to the West German authorities (our Copenhagen Correspondent writes).

Mr Ole Espersen, the Danish Minister of Justice, said Mr Meyer would be exchanged by Bonn, along with other East Germans in a spy-swapping deal.

Deng stays his hand

Peking, Nov 26.—China tonight formally announced that it was putting off a scheduled revision of its constitution. This may reflect disagreement about who should become head of state.

Peking radio and television said a redrafting committee would ask the national people's congress, (parliament), next week for more time to conclude its work.

The post of state chairman, or head of state, was abolished under Mao Tse-tung who had made its last incumbent, the late Liu Shaoqi, the main target of his cultural revolution from 1966-76.

Diplomatic and Chinese sources say the new draft constitution could revive the post, for which the best qualified candidate would be Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Communist Party Vice-Chairman. Reuters.

Even the most farsighted social commentator may be excused a twinge of anxiety at the breakneck advance of the silicon microprocessor.

Its critics depict a future in which labour is spilled directly from the frying pan of the forty-hour week into the fire of redundancy and disaffection.

But we firmly believe that technology developed for the benefit of all need not degenerate into a lemming-like scramble for self-extinction; and that the fruits of modern electronics can, if responsibly cultivated, substantially improve the quality of life throughout our society.

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As world leaders in the field, we provide invaluable 'off-line' experience of the conditions encountered in flight, at sea and in dangerous industrial processes. No jobs on the scrapheap, perhaps some lives preserved.

Nor will the exciting audio-visual system we designed for the Tyne and Wear

Metro take work away from the people. (Rather, it should help the people to get to work on time.)

We've even shed a kindlier light upon that old bête noir of the technophobes, the computer. Far from undermining the authority of the individual, our new System Alpha Teleputer terminal will actually exalt his role by increasing his overall efficiency.

We would argue, too, that our involvement in radio communications, marine navigation, recorded music and domestic television is more likely to improve people's lives than to degrade them.

Of course, it would be irresponsible to dismiss entirely the problems implicit in an accelerating technology. But most of these may be avoided if governments and companies regularly apply the fundamental, utilitarian test.

For if a particular advance does not show up immediately as a credit on the account of human welfare, then who exactly is collecting the interest?



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Pressure on voters in Brazil

From Patrick Knight
Brasilia, Nov 26

The Brazilian Government has cut short negotiations with the opposition parties over electoral reform and announced that voters must vote for candidates of the same party for all their choices in next year's elections.

Should voters select candidates from different parties for local government councillors and prefects, central government deputies and senators, and for the post of state governor, their vote would be annulled.

This measure, called "A Pearl Harbour attack" by Senator Ulysses Guimarães, the leader of the main opposition party, the PMDB, will greatly favour the powerful and well-organized government party, the Social Democratic Party (PDS) and greatly hinder the smaller opposition parties.

Parties will have to field candidates for all posts in each town, to be eligible, an almost impossible task for parties such as the Workers Party, the PT or the Brazilian Labour Party, (PTB).

Race riot quelled by army

Moscow, Nov 26.—The Soviet Army was called in to quell violent inter-communal riots late month in northern Caucasus, an official Soviet source said today.

Fierce battles were fought by the Ossetians and Chechens, two ethnic groups in Ordzhonikidze, a town of 300,000 people, between the Black and the Caspian seas. The incidents were not reported by the press here.

The fighting started after the murder of a Chechen taxi driver, who was decapitated. His friends, joined by a large crowd calling for revenge, carried his body to the local communist party headquarters.

The party headquarters was attacked, scores of people were wounded, and the Army was called in, an unofficial source said.

Violent clashes then took place between soldiers and civilians for several hours, and tanks took up positions in the streets of the town. There was no shooting and no one was killed, the source said, adding that several buildings in the centre of town were badly damaged.

French to resume work on atomic power plants

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Nov 26

The Mitterrand Government has become a wholehearted convert to nuclear power, both civil and military, and this, despite its initial misgivings.

At the same time as the Elysée Palace this week confirmed the explosion of a nuclear device in the Pacific on November 11, the Cabinet decided to go ahead with the construction of three of the five nuclear power plants on which it had ordered work to be halted last July, pending consultation with local authorities.

The device was exploded at the Pacific experimental centre on Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia. The ecologist organization Greenpeace, disclosing this on Tuesday, suggested that as its power only two kilotons "it was probably a neutron bomb". This was officially denied by the President's office.

The explosion was part of a current programme of tests. Details were not given but the tests are designed to improve the miniaturization and "hardening" of a whole range of existing French nuclear weapons, including the Hades tactical missile and the M4 strategic missile, with which French nuclear submarines will be equipped from 1985.

Alongside this programme, the atomic energy authority is involved in research and development of the neutron bomb, but no final decision has yet been taken by the government to go ahead with its manufacture.

The statement issued by Greenpeace in Paris was based on information from the National Radiation Laboratory in Wellington, but this did not draw any conclusions about the nature of the device exploded. It was the fifth nuclear test since the socialists came to power, and the eleventh since the beginning of the year. Greenpeace claimed. The coral base of the Atoll was, it claimed, deeply cracked by the tests.

Three nuclear power stations given the go-ahead this week are Cattenom 3, in Lorraine; Chooz B1, in the Ardennes; and Golfech 1, in the Pyrenees region.

In the case of the two others "Framatome" in July—Fellerin, near Nantes, and Civaux, in the Vienne, near Poitiers—there is still strong local controversy.

The only people who are not satisfied are the ecologists, who consider that the Socialists have betrayed their electoral promises; and industrialists, who deplore the effect on employment of the slowing down, however limited, of the nuclear power

MUNICIPALIDAD DE CORDOBA

REPUBLICA ARGENTINA

International and national contest of merits, credentials and background, and international and national public bid.

Purpose: To adjudge the concession contract to operate, exploit and maintain the urban railway of the City of Córdoba (Argentine Republic) and previous execution of the remodeling works and enlargement of the current infrastructure. Hereby is informed that the opening of the above mentioned contest, announced and published in this paper on September 8, 1981, has been prorogued until December 10, 1981 at 11 am.

Informes: Secretaría de Planeamiento y Coordinación, Planta Baja, Palacio "6 de Julio", 5000 Córdoba, Argentina Republic.

Wave of arrests as Pakistan hunts 'saboteurs'

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad, Nov 26

A country-wide hunt for saboteurs and political fugitives is under way in Pakistan. Many arrests have been made in the last few weeks, including those of university lecturers and leading members of the banned People's Party of the late Liaquat Ali Khan, the former Prime Minister.

A young man described as a leader of the Al Zulfikar organization, which the Government has described as the military arm of the People's Party, was shot dead by police at his Karachi flat; the officer leading the raid was also killed.

Those arrested so far include three lecturers at the Islamabad Quaid-e-Azam University, while several others were reported as being interrogated. Newspapers said today that police in several cities and towns were on the trail of political leaders and workers who belonged to the People's Party or were considered left-wingers. Mr Syed Quaim Ali Shah, who was a Sind minister in Mr Bhutto parties' government, was being sought by police while the wife of Mr Shaukat Mahmud of Punjab was reported detained in Lahore.

Eleven people were arrested in Karachi, according to a press report, while the police were said to have raided several houses.

Three university lecturers arrested early this month in Islamabad are reported to be accused of being involved in an anti-government conspiracy to circulate clandestine news sheets and carrying out other unspecified activities against the regime.

A military court is expected to try them, but so far no

authoritative statement has been made on these and several other arrests.

A press photograph that purported to show the literature seized from the lecturers' homes depicted bundles of books and papers in which could be seen copies of *Peking Review* and *Solzhnitsyn's Cancer Ward*. It has also been reported that the offices of the lecturers had been ransacked and more material required by the police removed by unidentified persons.

The provincial governments have from time to time announced bans on certain publications said to contain anti-State matter.

The man killed in the Karachi raid a week ago was Asad Lala, a student from Khairpur, in Sind, who was alleged to have led a gang that organized an abortive bomb attack on the Pope when he visited Karachi and the murder two months ago in Lahore of a former member of President Zia's Cabinet.

According to press reports, Russians and Afghans have been training youths in Kabul in urban warfare and many of these have arrived in Pakistan. The reports alleged that some armed groups were operating from the universities. In Islamabad there have been night raids on the university by police and other security agencies to seize arms.

Press reports generally suggest that the anti-government elements are left-wingers. Federal and provincial ministers have been making hard-hitting attacks on left-wingers in educational institutions and in the press.



Unwilling passenger: A Haitian refugee prepares to jump from the aircraft waiting to take him and 124 others from a detention camp in Miami to one in Puerto Rico. An immigration officer restrains another.

Bangladesh waits for IMF to open purse

By Leslie Plummer

In the cool dim offices of Bangladesh's Ministers of Finance, Planning and Development, where men sit at large desks drawing up ledgers of earnings and aspirations that never balance, the current visit of an International Monetary Fund team is being watched with an intensity that befits the most important event at present in the capital.

Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest nations, is waiting for the gods of international finance and rain to decide whether the country's condition over this sunny winter will be desperate, or very desperate.

The IMF team is considering whether to resume payments to Bangladesh of a three-year \$912m (£480m) loan it suspended last July because the country had exceeded agreed ceilings on Government spending, and failed to reduce various commodity subsidies, mainly on food.

At the same time, cracks in the delta's farming earth in the north have grown wide because the dry season set in

too early. There has been little rain for the past two months and an independent economist estimated in Dacca recently that before the lone rainfall that did come at the start of November, a 30 per cent crop loss was expected.

Now the loss will still be at least 10 per cent, experts predict, and talk has ceased even in the Government of a bumper harvest of more than 15 million tonnes of foodgrains. With no rain, and declining food aid and foreign exchange reserves, the country faces more of the lean times it knows so well. There is a serious danger of famine in some northern areas.

Export earnings dropped by 15 per cent last year, reflecting the plunge in world jute prices. Simultaneously, the price of imports increased by 19 per cent, with oil purchases consuming more than 80 per cent of Bangladesh's export earnings. This gap has left the country's foreign reserves at a record low of £71m.

There is much bitterness in

Dacca at present over the policies of the international agencies and donor nations which have propped up Bangladesh since its bloody inception in 1971. Anger is greatest with the Reagan Administration which has been pressing the IMF, the World Bank and others to tighten their lending practices.

"Agencies like the IMF urge us to enter a certain room, but without the key", Dr Fashuddin Mahtab, the respected and non-partisan Planning Minister, said in Dacca. He was referring to the paradox that at least half of Bangladesh's budget deficit, to which the IMF objects, was incurred carrying out policies urged by the IMF, such as providing higher Government support prices to farmers.

Dr Mahtab criticized the Reagan Government's attempts to impose its domestic economic thinking — specifically on the supremacy of free enterprise and reduced government spending — on the IMF and World Bank. "Washington is, in effect,

imposing on Bangladesh policies it has not been able to carry out even at home".

Stepping into the breach in the strategic region is Japan, which has not only replaced the United States as Bangladesh's biggest donor but is also the only foreign country to achieve an economic hold in Burma next door.

Japan gets the small petroleum surplus now produced by Burma and is involved in attempts to exploit the huge natural gas reserves which Bangladesh has barely begun to tap. With foreign grants and credits financing 54 per cent of Bangladesh's budget, outside forces have a great hold over Dacca.

"Our needs are changing, but donor policies are not", one minister complained. Commodity aid, needed to provide industry's raw materials, is drying up. "The only aid that is increasing is project aid because it is tied to sales of the donor's machinery and equipment to us", the Minister said.

TIDAL WAVE KILLS 47

Manila, Nov 26 — The death toll wrought by the typhoon Irma rose to 89 today with reports of a tidal wave that devastated a southern Luzon village on Tuesday, killing at least 47 people. The Philippine Red Cross said the tidal wave death toll could easily exceed 100 as 70 people were still missing in a village near Garchitorena.

China defends its exports of uranium

Peking, Nov 26 — The People's Daily said today that reports that China was selling enriched uranium to South Africa were spread by countries worried that Peking was breaking their monopoly of nuclear materials. Following up a denial yesterday that China was making such shipments, the newspaper said the aim of the

reports was to put pressure on China so that the nuclear monopoly enjoyed by others could be restored.

It did not name the countries concerned, nor did it mention the Washington Post, which in a front-page article on Thursday last week quoted United States officials as saying that they were convinced that China was the source of recent enriched

uranium shipments to South Africa.

Citing a statement by the Chinese United Nations mission in New York, the New China news agency said that it was "entirely normal for China to export a limited quantity of nuclear materials in the interest of international cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy."

Sikhs' home thoughts from abroad

From Kuldip Nayyar, Delhi, Nov 26

Mr Zail Singh, India's Home Minister, told Parliament today that the agitation for a Sikh homeland has been launched by a small section of disgruntled Sikhs living abroad.

The demand has caught the imagination of many Sikhs in Punjab and there have been incidents of violence against Hindus in the state. A few months ago, a senior Hindu editor was killed by a band of Sikhs.

However, Mr Singh said that there was nothing specific to indicate that the incidents of violence were connected with the agitation for the homeland. He admitted that an Indian aircraft was hijacked last month to Pakistan and the hijackers had said that they had done so to highlight the demand.

Mr Singh said it was a move to divide India. The Government would not tolerate further division of the country and it was determined to put down firmly all anti-national moves, he said.

Mr S C Jha, an opposition MP, said the central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had a hand in the movement and he asked for this question to be raised at the next Commonwealth meeting since the movement, he alleged, was being directed from Britain and Canada. The government said in reply that they had no specific information about any particular agency helping the movement.

Honduras set for elections

Legucigalpa, Nov 26 — Honduras is preparing to return to democracy after 18 years of military rule. Elections next Sunday, called by a constituent assembly elected 18 months ago, will choose a civilian president, a Congress of 82 deputies and 283 mayors.

The country of 3.5 million people — the poorest in central America with a per capita annual income estimated in 1978 at \$480 (about £240) — shares frontiers with Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala.

The nation's leaders last month called an emergency meeting of top army officers to warn them to "respect the results of the ballot box as long as voting has been free, honest and lawful".

Two main parties will fight in the election. The Liberal party's candidate is Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova, aged 54, who is the speaker of the constituent assembly. He sees only one solution for Honduras: A return to complete constitutional rule and the introduction of social and economic reforms.

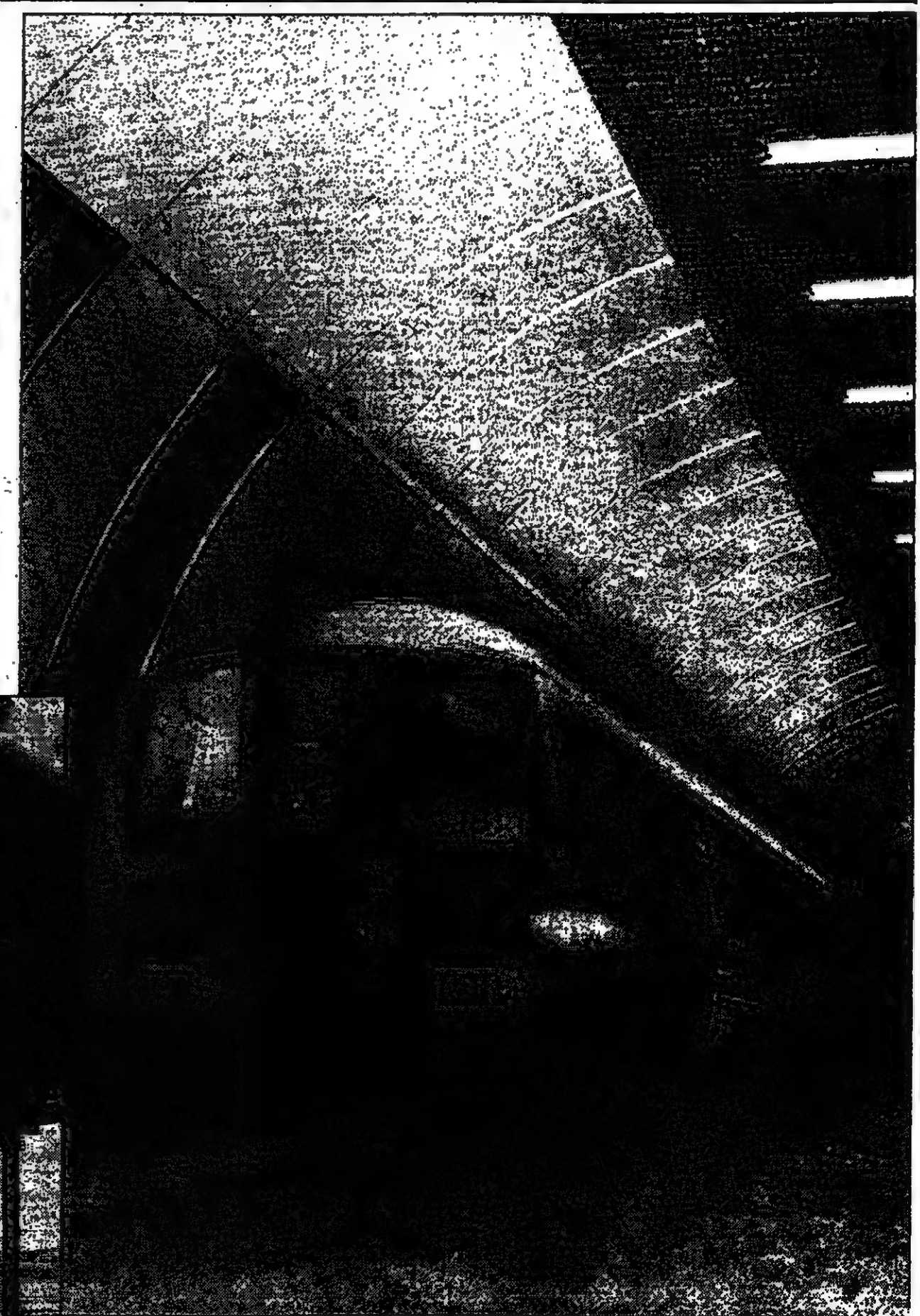
The other party is the National Party (conservative), which has supported the military regime of General Policarpo Paz Garcia. Its candidate is Senator Ricardo Zuniga Aguirre, aged 63, a lawyer who sees the nation facing "life or death" problems. He says the answer lies not so much in reform as in facing up to "the Communist threat that hangs over all of Central America". — AFP.

FOR the first time in 80 years passenger services on the Glasgow underground system came to a halt in June 1977.

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Work carried out included the laying of new twin tracks in the existing tunnels, the construction of access tunnels to surface workshops, and the reconstruction of Bridge Street and West Street Stations.

Some 14 miles of all-welded track was relaid in the twin-running tunnels. A newly installed pumping system now



A judicial Bastille stormed French MPs repeal anti-smashers law

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Nov 26

One of the judicial Bastilles of the "old regime", as the left always refers to it, the law of 1970 directed against people damaging property, was stormed last night without much more resistance than the symbol of despotism in 1789.

The National Assembly abolished it by 334 votes to 134, the Gaullists and Giscardians opposing. But even the Opposition did not put up a very determined resistance and about 16 of their number abstained.

The suppression of the "anti-smashers" law was part of the proclaimed objective of the Socialists, if they came to power, of removing from the penal code what they termed "villainous" and exceptional provisions, and those courts of exception, like the Court for State Security, which in their view are a threat to civil liberties. Also high on the list of the Socialists' priorities for the same reason is the repeal of the "security and freedom" law, voted under the Barre Government, to toughen and accelerate criminal procedure. This will be part of a complete overhaul of the Penal Code next year, but already the provisions of the "security and freedom" law have become a dead letter.

The adoption by Parliament of the "anti-smashers" law 11 years ago was prompted by the concern aroused in the Government and in public opinion by the students' unrest of May and June, 1968. This continued intermittently through the two or three years that followed, with the agitation of extreme left-wing elements in Paris and in leading provincial towns, and extensive damage to property, especially shop windows and parked cars.

The law was applied regularly to demonstrations by student extremists and other protest groups which degenerated into assaults on property. Its abuses came under the sharpest criticism after the pitched battles with the police in the Opera District in Paris by groups of anarchists agitators after a miners' and steelworkers' protest march on Paris organised by the Communist-led CGT.

Several students were arrested and summarily convicted of offences allegedly committed by plainclothes police provocateurs.

All aboard in Glasgow, to a seaside special for Paignton.

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From the dark tunnels of Glasgow underground we move into the sun at Paignton, in south Devon.

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in appearance, was towed from Torquay Harbour and moved beside the pier to help with most of the work.

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All-party search for fair complaints system

COMMONS

MPs from all parties should devise together a sensible system of dealing with complaints against the police which would meet the requirements of discipline and complaints, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said when he was asked to set up an inquiry to study methods of independent investigation into complaints against the police.

Mr Whitelaw, answering a series of Commons questions on independent investigation of complaints against the police, said he accepted that the procedure for handling complaints against the police must be altered if it was to command public confidence.

I shall bring forward proposals as soon as I can (he said), I met representatives of the Police Federation last week and I shall take into account their views.

Mr Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Healey, Lab) said he welcomed the fact that Mr Whitelaw was aware that there is a widespread and dangerous lack of confidence about the system which Mr Roy Jenkins invented and which was criticised at the time by Conservative and Labour backbenchers.

The only sensible remedy (he said) is an ombudsman appointed by, and responsible to, this House to look into complaints which may arise against the police.

Mr Whitelaw: We have to be careful about leaping to instant solutions because there are many problems.

Any system has to marry the responsibility of a chief constable

for the discipline of his force with the complaints that may be made against individuals in that force (Labour Intervention).

He is responsible for the work of his force and for the money provided to the police authority in his area and he is responsible for ensuring that the police are accountable for their actions.

If you are advocating that you cannot discuss the chief constable of the right to be responsible for discipline of the members of his force, that has got to be married with complaints.

Mr David Widdicombe (Walsall, North, Lab): Given the need for an independent body to look into complaints against the police, when will he be in a position to report? Is it likely to be before the Christmas recess?

Mr Whitelaw: It will not be before the Christmas recess. I met representatives of the Police Federation last week and I shall take into account their views.

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means accountable to some elected body and not just in a vacuum.

The Police Federation was asking in effect for a civilian body to defend them against the accusations made against them. The Association of Chief Police Officers profoundly disagree because they feel they are only accountable to themselves at this moment.

Mr Whitelaw: It is unfair to the chief police officer. Yes, the Police Federation did offer to have a totally independent system, but MPs should look at the offer of the chief constable. Much that would go with the offer of an independent system will be in a position to report? Is it likely to be before the Christmas recess?

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Government planning to make criminals pay compensation

LAW AND ORDER

The Government intended to improve the existing ability of the courts to order criminals to compensate those whom they had victimised, Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State, Home Office, said during a debate on a Liberal motion on law and order.

Where a criminal's means were insufficient to meet his victim's reasonable compensation and a reasonable fine, he said, the duty to compensate his victim should be placed on a criminal into practice.

There was a great deal of confidence in the police. He agreed they had to seek to establish a relationship of mutual trust and respect. That is what a relationship of confidence amounted to.

Police must make account of and respond to special needs and characteristics of the local community and that was the essence of what was generally known as community policing. That was not a new concept. It had a long pedigree in the Metropolitan Police force as other forces.

Mr Patrick Mayhew said Mr Whitelaw had stated in the clearest terms his acceptance of Lord Scarman's philosophy on policing and his resolve that it should be a criminal into practice.

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Liberalism wanted to make was a plea for more community policing. That meant a reversal of the policies which had been almost automatically adopted in most communities over a long period of time. More modest, more centralised offices and greater use of motorised police had taken them further away from local communities.

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had already had gave it good grounds for confidence that the industry would use racial sentences in such a way as to avoid the risks the Government had previously foreseen.

Mr David Owen (Plymouth, SDP) said a policy had been adopted which was a matter of confidence in the police. He agreed they had to seek to establish a relationship of mutual trust and respect. That is what a relationship of confidence amounted to.

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Advice on sentencing was needed

HOME OFFICE

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State, Home Office, strongly denied that the Home Secretary had capitulated to pressure from judges and magistrates over a plan to reduce prisoners' sentences.

He said the reason Mr Whitelaw had changed his mind was because he had carried out consultations and needed what he had been told. It was absurd, to talk of capitulation.

The minister said a Conservative MP he did not want Britain's prisons to be dubious—penal or otherwise.

Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury, C) had asked if the Home Secretary would consider a reappraisal of the prison regime with a view to achieving a better balance between punishment and reform.

Mr Mayhew: It is not the function of prison regimes to add to the punishment of the sentence of the court. The Prison Department is constantly seeking to develop new and positive elements within the prison regimes despite the pressures on resources.

Mr McNair-Wilson: If we are to counteract the concept of prisons as penal dustbins we should give thought not only to improving the management but to the purpose of imprisonment. What is the Home Office research unit doing in looking at these aspects of the penal system?

Mr Mayhew: We do not want our prisons to be dubious of any kind—penal or otherwise. It is important that the regimes, notwithstanding the shortage of resources that we suffer at the moment, should be as positive as possible.

The regimes committee is carrying out continuous reappraisal of regimes with a view to the prison service philosophy and arranging prisoners' home leave. About four different groups are undertaking examinations of different aspects of the matter.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Glik (Ormskirk, Lab): An appropriate balance between punishment and reform cannot be achieved while overcrowding in local prisons makes it impossible to maintain even basic minimum standards of human decency.

This will be exacerbated by the introduction of new sentencing sentences. Would he reconsider this decision and introduce a scheme of supervised release which would have the effect of reducing the prison population immediately by 7,000?

Mr Mayhew: The answer to the first part—is it impossible for a proper balance to be maintained at present—is generally and unambiguously yes.

The reason why supervised release would not be satisfactory is that there is a prospect of adding to the numbers of people in prison rather than reduce them.

Mr Ivan Lawrence (Burton, C): If more of our prisons provided constructive work for prisoners, it would contribute not only to the reform of offenders but also help to punish those who

are in prison because they are workshy?

Mr Mayhew: It is a continuous effort of the Prison Department to provide opportunities for worthwhile work for inmates in prison. This is the case notwithstanding the shortage of resources that we have.

The purpose of prison is partly to help prepare inmates for a useful and self-supporting life outside prison.

Mr Alexander Lyon (York, Lab): Since there can be no effective prison regime until we cut the number of people in prison, has the Home Secretary not denied himself the possibility of that by spiralling up the judges and magistrates in refusing to reduce the amount of time spent in prison?

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The anatomy of a riot—by Lord Scarman

Lord Scarman relates how on Friday, April 10, some young blacks in Brixton had misunderstood the efforts of two constables to help a young black man who had been stabbed by other blacks and was running away. One of the second pair of constables who came upon him in a cab pressed down on the injured youth's chest to try to seal a suspected puncture of the lung. A crowd of 30 to 40 youths thought the black youth was being attacked. Disorder broke out. It was the fuse for the main riot on Saturday April 11.

Saturday April 11 began as an apparently normal, busy day in Brixton. The weather was fine and the streets and market were crowded. At 2 pm the 112 officers in "L" District engaged in Operation Swamp came on duty. 48 of them were in Brixton area. Squad 7, consisting of 12 officers, had been operating in plain clothes throughout the week in Raiton Road and Mayall Road and the surrounding area. At about 4.40 pm two of the officers from this squad — PC L. Cameron (aged 20) and PC L. Thornton (aged 24) — were walking back to Brixton Police Station from Dulwich Road via Kellert Road and Atlantic Road when they saw a blue Datsun car parked outside Number 82 Atlantic Road, the office of S & M Car Hire. As the two officers passed the car they looked in and saw the driver placing what appeared to be pieces of folded paper in his right sock. Having in mind the reputation of the area for drug trading, they thought that the pieces of paper might contain drugs and decided to investigate. The officers approached the driver and questioned him about what he had in his socks. They explained that

'The officer looked up — bricks and stones were coming through the air towards him'

they thought he might be in possession of drugs and asked if they could search him. The driver laughed and told them that as a mini-cab driver it was his practice to put his money in his socks for safe-keeping. He agreed to be searched. PC Cameron searched him and found nothing incriminating. The pieces of paper proved, as the cab driver had said, to be bank notes. While PC Cameron was searching the cab driver a crowd of some 30, mainly black youths, had begun to assemble on the pavement outside the S & M Car Hire Office. The officers noticed this and that the crowd was hostile; they decided, however, to continue their investigation.

PC Cameron went with the cab driver to the rear of the car where he began to take down the driver's particulars. PC Thornton walked round the front of the car to check the Road Fund licence and then began to walk down the outside of the pavement in front of the S & M Car Hire. There a dispute about what precisely happened. According to PC Thornton, as he attempted to rejoin his colleague, he found his way blocked by a young black man who was leaning against the side of the blue Datsun. The officer asked the young man to move but the latter simply abused him. The officer alleges that the young man then pushed him in the chest with both hands. According to the young man, the officer threatened him and trod on his foot, causing him to react and push the officer.

Whatever the circumstances, it is clear that at this point the young black man was arrested by PC Thornton for obstructing a police officer in the execution of his duty. It is alleged by the officer that when he took hold of the young man, the latter became extremely violent. A police van, for which the officers had made a radio request, arrived at 4.45 pm. As the police van drew away with PC Cameron and Thornton and the young man in it, the crowd around the van rocked it. A missile was thrown, smashing the window of the nearside rear door and flinging the van door open. The van stopped momentarily when PC Cameron saw a uniformed police officer stagger out of the crowd holding his stomach, and went to assist him.

Inspector Scottford, who was Duty Inspector at Brixton Police Station, received a radio call at 4.52 pm that a person had been stabbed near the S & M Car Hire Office (in fact the policeman had been wounded, not stabbed). He went immediately to the scene. On his arrival, he saw a large crowd, a number of police officers, some in uniform and others in plain clothes, and several police vans parked just north of the Triangle, the apex of Raiton and Mayall Roads. Traffic in Atlantic Road had come to a standstill. Inspector Scottford realised at once that the situation was serious. He asked over his radio for the two senior officers on duty at Brixton Police Station that Saturday — Chief Superintendent Boyling and Chief Inspector Benn — to come to the scene.

Lord Scarman's findings on the riots in Brixton on Friday and Saturday April 10 and 11 have been widely reported. But his well documented presentation of what really happened on the streets is a remarkable and inevitably dramatic piece of reconstruction. This abridged but detailed account is essential reading for anyone who wishes fully to understand the events of that Saturday, the nature of the disturbances and the police reaction to them. It is taken from Part III of Lord Scarman's report "The Brixton Disorders" HMSO, Command 8427, price £8.

When a few moments later, Chief Superintendent Boyling and Chief Inspector Benn arrived separately on the scene they were immediately surrounded by a large and hostile crowd. It was about 5.10 pm. The crowd was complaining about the earlier arrests, about police harassment and alleging that some police officers had been wearing National Front badges. A young black man, Mr. Tony Morgan, who was on the scene and had witnessed the incident, warned Chief Superintendent Boyling that if he did not get his officers out of the area, there would be a riot. Mr. Boyling was standing talking to Mr. Morgan about what should be done when he noticed that the crowd in Atlantic Road was covering the full width of the road. Suddenly there was a cry of "Look out". Looking up, the Chief Superintendent saw bricks and stones coming towards him. The missiles hit the police dog van parked across the apex of the Triangle, smashing its windows.

The crowd turned up to the dog van and turned it on its side. A young black man said it might be a police car. A police car nearby was also set alight. Chief Superintendent Boyling saw that he was confronted by a serious breakdown of law and order. He took two decisions. He called for urgent assistance from all over the Metropolitan Police District. He also ordered the officers with him to draw their truncheons and to charge the crowd to the north in Atlantic Road, so as to disperse them from the area. Having cleared Atlantic Road, Chief Superintendent Boyling then took steps to secure it against the possibility that the crowd might return. He also asked for his senior officer, the Acting Commander, Chief Superintendent Nicholson, to come to the scene. The time was 5.27 pm.

When Chief Superintendent Nicholson arrived in response to Chief Superintendent Boyling's call, he took charge at the scene. Looking south down Raiton Road, Chief Superintendent Nicholson and Chief Superintendent Boyling could see a crowd in Raiton Road at the junction with Leeson Road. Chief Superintendent Boyling tried to gather enough officers together to go south down Raiton Road and join with Inspector Scottford, who had gone down Mayall Road to Leeson Road, in dispersing the crowd. As Inspector Scottford and his officers — about 20 in number — turned right into Leeson Road, they saw that the road was packed with people and were met by a hail of bricks, bottles and other missiles including broken lengths of metal railing. The officers took what shelter they could behind parked vehicles and in the angle of the Windsor Castle at the junction of Mayall and Leeson Roads. Some officers commandeered dustbin lids. They subsequently made a number of attempts to advance into Leeson Road but each time the barrage of missiles forced them back. Police casualties were heavy.

While they were held at the corner by the Windsor Castle, Inspector Scottford and his officers were joined first by Chief Inspector Benn and then by Chief Superintendent Boyling. A police tender, with shields on board arrived in Mayall Road in response to calls from Chief Superintendent Boyling and Chief Inspector Scottford at about 6.18 pm. Having equipped their officers with shields, Chief Superintendent Boyling and Inspector Scottford made another attempt to clear Leeson Road. Many officers were injured, three as a result of petrol bombs. Shortly after, some reinforcements arrived in the shape of a number of officers from the Special Patrol Group. With this assistance, the officers made a final but again unsuccessful attempt to advance into Leeson Road. More police officers were injured. Chief Superintendent Boyling ordered his men to withdraw northwards up Mayall Road. As they withdrew leaving behind a police van, the crowd pursued the officers, throwing everything that came to hand. They overturned the van and set it alight, along with two other cars in Leeson Road. It was now that members of the crowd set fire to the Windsor Castle Public House. The police withdrew up Mayall Road to its junction with Raiton Road at the Triangle. Here they formed a cordon facing south across the mouth of Mayall Road. Later the police formed a base which extended the length of Atlantic Road from Coldharbour Lane to the Triangle. South of the Triangle, Raiton and Mayall Roads were held by the crowd.

At about 5.55 pm a No. 2 Bus on its normal route from Herne Hill north up Raiton Road to Atlantic Road had been commandeered by people in the crowd about the Leeson Road/Raiton Road junction. After an unsuccessful attempt to overturn the bus in Raiton Road, the conductor having previously been assaulted and robbed of his takings, a member of the crowd drove it with other people from the crowd on board, north up Raiton Road towards the police line at the junction with Atlantic Road. Seeing the bus and the crowd coming towards the police line with the apparent intention of breaking it, one of the officers threw a brick at the windscreen of the bus. The windscreen smashed, the man driving the bus jumped out and it veered to the right of the police line, eventually coming to rest against a wall near the junction with Kellert Road. The bus incident illustrated the aggressive spirit of the crowd and the defensive posture imposed upon the police by the lack of adequate reinforcements.

It was into this scene that at about 6.15 pm, Chief Superintendent Fairbairn, had arrived at about 6.15 pm. He immediately asked for more shields to be supplied and for a helicopter to be sent to assist him by overflying the more distant part of the crowd. The helicopter could not be made available because of lack of crew, but shortly afterwards a tender arrived with the shields. Commander Fairbairn saw at once that he had insufficient officers to disperse the crowd facing him. He decided that the best he could do was to try to contain the situation until he had sufficient officers to move forward and clear the area. He envisaged doing this by a piecemeal movement from both ends of Raiton Road. This approach was confirmed by Deputy Assistant Commissioner Walker, responsible for Number 1 Area of the Metropolitan Police, of which "L" District is part, when he arrived on the scene at about 6.30 pm, and it remained the basis of police strategy throughout the rest of the evening.

Chief Superintendent Boyling and Inspector Scottford having withdrawn from Mayall and Leeson Roads, the police consolidated their hold across the junction of Raiton and Mayall Roads with Atlantic Road at the Triangle. Gradually a double cordon was put across Raiton Road facing south, with a single cordon across Mayall Road facing south, and another single cordon at the junction of Kellert and Talma Roads. The crowd meanwhile were maintaining their attack on the Raiton Road cordon, were hurling iron railings, bricks, petrol bombs and lengths of wood at and over the police shields and even pouring various liquids (in one case a bottle of whisky) over the shields. Several officers were injured as burning petrol ran down their shields.



Cold statistic (Lord Scarman's words): injured officer is helped by colleagues

them their terms for dispersing. They wanted the police to withdraw, they wanted an end to police harassment and they wanted those arrested to be released.

After returning to the police lines, the mediators relayed these messages to Commander Fairbairn. The Commander, however, did not believe that those who had said they would disperse if the police withdrew could, even if they wished, enforce their view on others in the crowd. He maintained his refusal to withdraw.

The attack by the crowd on the police cordon in Raiton Road continued until 8.45 pm when the police were at last sufficiently reinforced to be able to move forward. Petrol bombs and other missiles were continually hurled at the line of police shields. At one point a car was pushed to within a few feet of the police line. Shortly after the police saw a black man pour liquid from a can across Raiton Road and beckon them to come forward. In spite of the constant attacks, the police under Commander Fairbairn continued to hold their line while gradually reinforcing it. During this critical phase the officers in the line, supported by their Commander's leadership and encouraged by the comradeship of their colleagues displayed exemplary steadiness and courage. Some, it is clear, picked up stones or other missiles which had been thrown at them, and flung them back. It may not have been lawful but it was understandable, and excusable, when in self-defence.

While the centre of the disorder was Leeson Road and the northern end of Raiton Road, its effects were being felt over a wide area of central Brixton. In the commercial area of Brixton, the northern half of Atlantic Road, Electric Avenue and Coldharbour Lane, widespread looting had developed since about 6 pm. Both whites and blacks — some of them very young — were involved in several instances. The whites appeared to be generally older, and more systematic in their methods. It also appears that the looters were, in the main, quite different from the people who were attacking the police.

The other major area in which the police were enforcedly absent lay, of course, south of the police lines at the Triangle, in Mayall and Raiton Roads and the streets to the west of there. This was territory effectively held by the rioters.

In one of the most disturbing aspects of the disorders, ambulances and fire engines responding to calls for help in this area were attacked and an ambulance and several fire engines injured. Altogether on Saturday evening one ambulance and 14 fire engines were reported injured and four ambulances and nine fire appliances were damaged. Four fire appliances were temporarily abandoned by their crews in the face of the hostility of the crowd, a turntable ladder was rolled and set alight, and a considerable quantity of Fire Brigade equipment was stolen or damaged. The crowd in Raiton Road, which consisted mainly of black people but with some white people present, had begun to move south down Raiton Road, entering commercial and other premises, including a number of private houses, stealing their contents and in some cases setting fire to the buildings. The main concentration of fires in Raiton Road lay near the junction with Effra Parade. The fire brigade had been unable to deal with them because of the hostility of the crowd. With the courage and decisiveness which were to prove characteristic of his conduct that evening, Chief Superintendent Robinson decided to advance along Effra Parade with four of his detachments equipped with shields, so as to clear the way for fire appliances to tackle the fires. As he was making his arrangements, the fire appliances were instructed by their control to leave the scene due to the hostility of the crowd, but they agreed to await the outcome of the police action.

Chief Superintendent Robinson then led about 60 to 70 officers behind a single line of shields along Effra

Parade towards the junction with Raiton Road. As the officers neared the junction they could see a large crowd numbering perhaps 300 to 400 in Raiton Road, which soon began to direct a heavy barrage of missiles at them. The police cordon stopped briefly just short of the junction while Mr Robinson surveyed the many fires in Raiton Road — which were well advanced — and agreed a course of action to clear the junction with his senior officers.

The police were immediately attacked ferociously by the crowd, and one of two cordons stopped facing north across Raiton Road under a hail of bricks, bottles, tiles, pieces of wood, milk crates, scaffold poles and petrol bombs. Another cordon was similarly subjected to a fierce barrage of missiles including petrol bombs and a new weapon, spinning plates. In spite of this the other cordon managed to advance slowly as far as the northern end of the junction of Raiton Road and Chaucer Road, where they were halted by the sustained bombardment from the crowd.

Chief Superintendent Robinson radioed for ambulances and for police assistance. He also summoned the fire appliances to begin to tackle the fires around the junction of Effra Parade and Raiton Road. He then went south to the cordon at Chaucer Road. Once there he decided that his officers would have to extend their control over the whole of the

junction with Chaucer Road in order to avoid being attacked, as they now were, from the sides. Under the sustained assaults of the crowd — at one point a car was pushed as a battering ram into the police line — the officers succeeded in establishing a new cordon in Raiton Road at the south side of the junction with Chaucer Road, as well as cordons across the flanks of Chaucer Road itself, thus securing the whole of the junction.

At this point, Chief Superintendent Robinson was himself hit and partially but temporarily stunned by a missile thrown from the crowd. The fire officers fought with great determination the fires around them, in spite of the danger from collapsing buildings and the missiles of the crowd, and under the difficulty that their hoses were being cut by the glass and other sharp objects which were strewn around the ground. Many police officers were injured, some seriously. As the number of police officers injured rose steadily, Chief Superintendent Robinson's calls for assistance became increasingly insistent.

Although he did not know it, the police were at last beginning to marshal sufficient officers to disperse the crowd of whom anger the Chief Superintendent and his men were the target. At about 8.30 pm Commander Adams (at the time of the disturbances in charge of the Traffic Division of the Metro-

politan Police, but Commander Fairbairn's predecessor as Commander of "L" District) had arrived at Brixton Police Station and had been directed by Mr Walker to take the reserves available at that time (numbering about 150 officers, of whom about 100 were members of the Special Patrol Group) to the southern end of Raiton Road, and move north, while Commander Fairbairn moved south with the object of dispersing the crowd westwards into the side streets off Raiton Road, so relieving Mr Robinson.

Commander Fairbairn was himself injured at about 8.30 pm but about 15 minutes later he gave the order for officers in the cordon at the northern end of Raiton Road to begin their advance south, at the same time sending other officers under Chief Superintendent Boyling south down Mayall Road to cover his flank. Under a continuing hail of missiles and petrol bombs the officers in Raiton Road then began to pick their way slowly south round both burning and burnt out vehicles, clearing the remnants of the crowd behind the demolition site on the west side of Raiton Road. Once beyond the vehicles, the officers reformed in a line and moved towards Dexter and Leeson Roads, the crowd dispersing in front of them as they did so.

At about 9 pm one of Mr Robinson's cordons was temporarily overwhelmed by the crowd attacking it. Many

officers were injured, some of them seriously and some police shields were captured by the crowd. Considering the situation, it seemed to Mr Robinson that extraordinary measures were necessary if he was to save the position and prevent his officers or firemen being further injured or even killed. He took a hose from a fireman, ordered other officers to do likewise and turned the jets on the crowd. The action achieved the effect Mr Robinson desired. The crowd fell back and the firemen were able to continue to fight the fires.

Reinforcements arrived via Effra Parade at about 9.30 pm in the shape of three detachments of officers (some with shields) under Chief Superintendent Skinner. These officers took over the one cordon and began to move northwards. It was about this time that they began to see Commander Fairbairn's men approaching with shields from the north. The crowd between the lines of officers dispersed. The police in Raiton Road were left to consolidate their cordons so as to continue to protect the Fire Brigade fighting the fires in Raiton Road.

By about 10.00-10.15 pm, the main disorders in the Raiton Road/Mayall Road area were over, and the police were able to re-establish an effective presence throughout Brixton. By 11 pm this was completed.

Both the police and the community were now able to take stock of what had happened. In cold statistical terms, 82 people had been arrested, 279 police officers injured, 45 members of the public injured (there were probably more), 61 private vehicles and 56 police vehicles damaged or destroyed, and 145 premises damaged, 28 of them by fire. As important, however, was the effect of what had happened on the attitudes and feelings of those involved. The police had undergone an experience, all then unparalleled on the mainland of the United Kingdom. Within the community there were some who felt elated because, as they saw it, the community had taken a stand against the police and there were some who saw disorder as an opportunity for publicised protest; but many more were saddened and uncertain at the implications of the events.

It was clear to all that the scale of what had happened would linger in Brixton, and particularly in the relationship between the police and public, for a long time to come.

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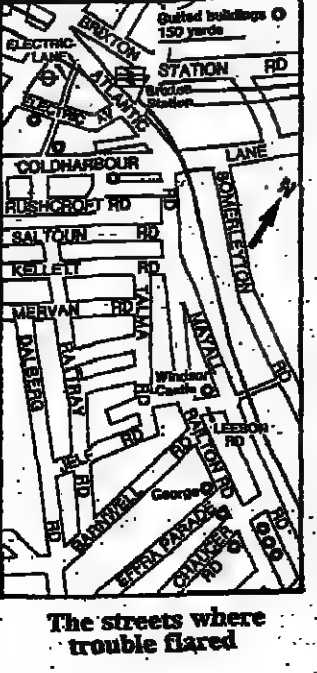
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The streets where trouble flared

David Watt

Europe calling and the super powers listen

If this were a perfect world, the EEC heads of government, now meeting in London, would be hammering out and possibly even putting the finishing touches to an agreement on the EEC budget and the common agricultural policy. As my Chatham House colleague Joan Pearce pointed out on this page earlier this week, this may be their best chance. In fact, they will almost certainly issue around the central issue once more and concentrate on the political questions they have most on their minds — the implications of President Reagan's nuclear weapons speech coupled with Mr. Brezhnev's visit to Bonn and the over the terms on which the Europeans should take part in the Sinai peace-keeping force.

Since, on the face of it, there is not much they can do about any of these things at this stage, this may seem a pretty daft way to spend their time. But in a way it is not. Britain's six-months presidency of the EEC Council of Ministers (of which the present convocation is the climax) has borne the imprint of Lord Carrington's diplomacy and it has been primarily to argue that the attempt to keep the EEC afloat by concentrating on a rudimentary joint foreign policy rather than a solid economic compromise is ultimately misguided and irrelevant; but in fact the recent action has been on the political front, and a political stocktaking is therefore of some importance.

Nor, so far as East-West relations are concerned, is the balance encouraging. In the first place it is that the over-emphasis of the importance of President Reagan's initiative. This lies not in the "Zero option" or indeed in any of the technical arms control aspects of the speech. The vital thing is that the new American administration is at last talking in an adult fashion about the real world. Nine months has been wasted

in subservience to the rhetoric of the last presidential campaign.

There was, it was said, no possibility of point in trying to negotiate with the Soviet Union until American military parity (even, in some versions, superiority) had been restored. Soviet behaviour in the world would be the touchstone of American policy and the Russians could not expect to be admitted to civilized discourse until they had mended their ways and ceased to meddle in the developing countries. "Linkage" was all. All this fantasy has now fallen away and we are left with a reasonably business-like approach. The Soviet Union is to be dealt with, after all, and while these dealings will obviously be affected by Soviet actions worldwide there is no reason why progress on arms control should not precede and contribute to the improvement of general relations.

The reasons for this transformation are complex. The acute difficulty the Reagan administration is now fighting in accommodating its ambitious defence budget to the demands of other parts of the US economy is one of them. Sheer familiarity with the issues, combined with that quiescent reflection in hospital which Mr. Reagan said had caused him to write to Mr. Brezhnev last May, were others. But the most important factor has undoubtedly been steadily allied pressure.

This has been exerted in the first instance through Nato machinery. But the most powerful application of it has been through the direct channels that run between London, Bonn and Paris on the one hand and Washington on the other. The political cooperation machinery of the EEC as such may not have contributed a great deal, but to some extent the leaders now gathered in London are genuinely beginning to see themselves as the political European core within the alliance, and



Lord Carrington (with the French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson): diplomacy with a political imprint

in that sense they will legitimately regard the Reagan move as an achievement of "European" foreign policy.

On the Russian side it is much more difficult to claim any victories so far, but you cannot really examine recent developments without coming to the obvious conclusion that the west European countries, and particularly the EEC countries, are being cast, whether they like it or not, in a crucial role on the sidelines of the Geneva arms control talks. The Russians clearly have regarded the Europeans all along as the means of bringing the United States administration to the negotiating table in an amenable frame of mind — and for that reason they have played and will continue to play on the themes of the European peace movement for all they are worth.

Nevertheless, having spent much of the past week in Moscow discussing these questions, I have come to the conclusion, that for the Russians, Western Europe seems a much more important, ambiguous and even dangerous quantity in the present international situation than one might suppose.

One can never be sure that anything one hears in Moscow represents more than propaganda and tactics — a fact which for practical purposes I regard as one of the most stupidly boring consequences of the Soviet system. But there is a good deal of logical Russian self-interest in the party line that one currently receives:

• The Europeans are admittedly split on attitudes to the East and disarmament. The peace movement (while

naturally representing the interests and aspirations of the working-class, etc etc) is not necessarily going to sweep the board.

• It is not in Moscow's interests beyond a certain point that the board should be swept. According to Soviet analysts, the peace movement in the United States itself will pick up next year to keep pace with the Europeans, but until this development materializes a big rift between Europe and the United States would be a bad thing for the Soviet Union since it would be impossible to get détente under conditions in which the United States and the other Nato powers were isolated — at odds with one another.

• The worst result of all for Moscow would be a Gaullist type of Europe possessing its own defence force and a large array of its own nuclear weapons. That would oblige the Soviet Union to arm itself doubly to meet the separate and possibly combined threats of the American and European forces.

There is some sense of realism about this appreciation and one's conviction that it represents more or less the truth is reinforced by the Soviet response to the Reagan speech. The line taken by Soviet officials to the immediate aftermath was extremely hostile. The initiative was roundly denounced as a propaganda gimmick fiendishly designed for no other purpose than to upstage the Brezhnev visit to Bonn. Within two days the line after the favourable West European reaction had been observed) the same individuals were talking in a very different vein. Naturally

there was a good deal of propaganda in the speech, but then you would expect the Americans to be absolutely unrealistic. The main thing was that the dialogue had been started.

This spiel does not mean that the Russians are anything less than highly sceptical of Washington's real intentions. They evidently fear that the "military-industrial complex" and sinister forces connected with the Committee for the Present Danger will successfully prevent progress even if the President's new look really is more than a sop to the Europeans.

What it does mean, however, is that both super powers are now acutely sensitive to opinion in Western Europe, particularly West Germany, and (even more significantly) each is aware that the other is sensitive. This is a classic set-up for the man in the middle.

Chancellor Schmidt has instantly realized this fact and is now talking in grandiose terms of his role as an honest broker.

But he is not the only possible intermediary. British Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, and the Low Countries are all involved, and since they happen to be gathered at Lancaster House this week in a forum which is desperately keen to find a collective economic recovery indefinitely, then it would strike at the object for which its anti-inflation policy exists — which would be ridiculous.

If the Chancellor is now seriously contemplating penalizing productive industry and employment by higher taxation, and through

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Ronald Butt

A little bending could turn out for the best

The conquest of inflation will not be a real victory if economic recovery dies in the battle

interest rates, to pay for the overspending which ministers cannot politically avoid (and which should have been tackled much earlier in the Government's life) it is surely right that he should think again.

Even so (and even allowing for the argument that high interest charges and the cost of unemployment benefit themselves add unacceptably to the PSBR) it would be hard to see how the Government could escape from this dilemma were it not for the fact that the measure by which the "unacceptable" level of its borrowing is assessed is both illogical and unscientific. It is by a re-examination of the PSBR and of the Government's public sector that Mrs Thatcher could find the best means of navigating the present Z-bend.

It is no new thing for Conservative MPs' critics of the Government's policy to make a distinction between capital and current public spending, arguing for more borrowing to assist investment in useful capital projects. Such investment, borrowing, they argue, should be taken as swelling the PSBR unacceptably.

The Chancellor's reply, in essence, has been that the distinction is false, and that borrowed money is borrowed money (the PSBR is a notional figure printed by the Government at will) whatever it is used for. There is, he would say, no true comparison with borrowed private money, which is lent by banks only on a genuinely commercial risk basis.

There are two flaws in this argument. First, it means that once productive industry has entered the public sector it becomes prey to any government's capricious political constraints as well as being too often freed from proper financial discipline in a way that would not have happened had it remained in the private sector. That is a very good reason against putting productive industry in the public sector, but have to deal realistically with the situation that exists.

The Government should therefore continue, and accelerate the process it has already started of encouraging private money into public industry, provided it is lent on proper commercial conditions, and that the Government is not expected to subsidise its cost.

The second flaw in the argument is that all public borrowing is essentially the same lies in the fact that the PSBR is compiled on a ridiculous and incompetent basis which undermines confidence in its figures. It is not an economic indicator. Nobody has made this point more effectively than Mr. Tim Renton, Conservative MP for Mid-Sussex, who has emphasized not merely the failure of the PSBR to make a capital/current distinction but has also demonstrated the extent to which what is and what is not included in the PSBR is quite arbitrary.

For one thing, what is not included can depend on the very narrow point

whether a government has 51 per cent or only 49 per cent of the equity of a partly nationalized industry. If the government had retained 51 per cent of the shares in recently denationalized British Aerospace, all the financial requirements would have been controlled within the PSBR. As the government retained only 48 per cent, all its capital spending is excluded. Yet whether it is within or without the PSBR, Mr. Renton pointed out, British Aerospace's demand for long-term finance is primarily funded from the same resources.

By another supreme inconsistency, although the government owns 99 per cent of British Leyland, its bank borrowings are not considered part of the PSBR. Yet British Telecom's borrowing is PSBR, though borrowed by its competitor, Cable and Wireless, were (when it was government-owned) apparently not.

Only last week, in the debate on the Nuclear Industry (Finance) Bill, Mr. Edward Rowlands, Labour MP for Merthyr Tydfil, brought out the "incredible, strange and curious" fact that the borrowing requirements of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd, which amount to £1,000m rising to £1,500m, do not fall on the PSBR. Yet it involves the possibility of Treasury guarantees.

Such questions are in the minds of a wide range of Tory MPs from those on the "dryish" side to such arch-wet critics of the Government's policy as Mr. Peter Tapsell, MP for Hornchurch, who last week fired off another of his massive onslaughts against the view that higher government spending would mean higher interest rates and more inflation.

Where Mr. Tapsell shares common ground with Conservative critics of the Government's policy is in his advocacy of such ideas as a private consortium to electricity parts of British Rail, with the consortium continuing to be owned by the Government, or leasing it to BR so that it remains outside the PSBR.

The Government should now think what more it can do for productive public investment instead of penalizing it. The current spending which ministers are politically frightened of releasing, it could base this exercise on dividing the PSBR into three categories: current spending covering the government's own services (such as NHS, transfer payments (pensions and benefits); and capital spending — bearing in mind that, like a prudent householder, it can still be tight on everyday spending while holding mortgages for useful capital equipment on a proper commercial basis.

This is quite different from the demand for a little more reflation in government spending all round. It is a question rather of seeing whether the arithmetic with which the policy is being applied is right for the changed circumstances. To keep up interest rates and to put up taxation against productive private industry, and to deny investment (on a proper commercial basis) to public industry, are both wrong because current non-productive spending is too high — is to prefer the means of policy to the end.

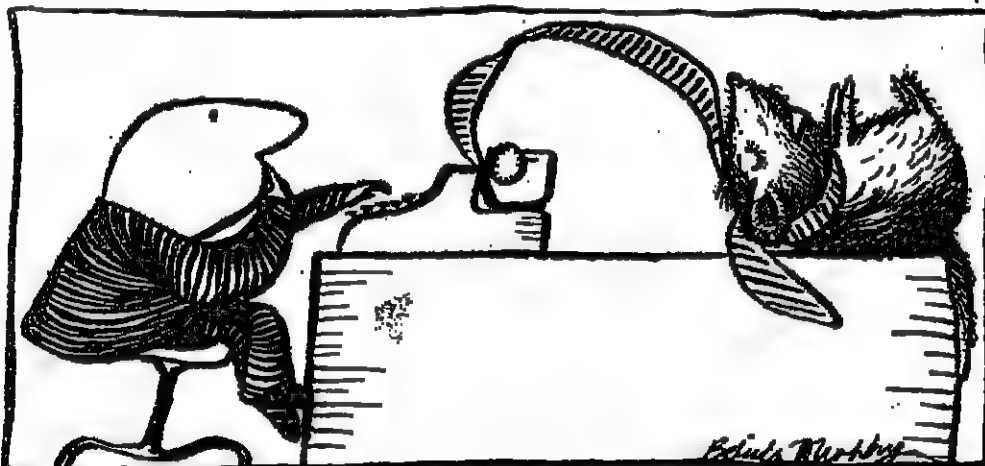
The conquest of inflation will not be a real victory if economic recovery dies in the battle. This has been a government of unequalled courage in the postwar period, willing to pay a high price in popularity for what it has achieved. Now it must be a government of ingenuity and inventiveness as well.

A writing Jonah sheds tears for the dear departed

"It's a dead Vol," agreed Richard North, editor of the magazine at his demise. Richard North, founder, first editor and company secretary, has just arranged not exactly its winding-sheet but its winding up. As an observer of its birth and short life, I am one of the mourners. Worse, I feel guilty. Had the curse of Jonathan Sale struck again?

Up in my loft there are ever-increasing piles of publications with two things in common: they contain articles with my by-line above them, and they do not come out any more. Is this just a coincidence? Or can there be some bizarre link?

On the face of it, the death of Vol cannot be the fault of a piece of mine in its last ever issue, on motorways (against) and bicycles (for). A periodical which savages the consumer society is not likely to grow rich with advertisements for sports cars and brandy. And how good its blend of science and the Country Code of pollution and pollution, it wasn't getting through to the readers. The time cannot be right for environmental magazines. The best, the fiercest mouthpiece of the animal liberation movement, is also a corpse.



But the *Evening News*, from whom he has earned a few cheques over the years, is also a goner, swallowed by its London rival, *The Standard*. Then there is the case of the small glossy publication entitled A.M. Its first issue included a book review by me. It soon ran into its p.m. and finally was benighted after only a handful of issues.

You probably never saw it and, to take the story further, the fiercest mouthpiece of the animal liberation movement, is also a corpse.

draughts and diplomacy. It seemed to be covering its own back, and its contents page proclaimed: "An Idiot's Guide to Chess with Jonathan Sale in the title role", since when I have never seen a copy. You must have seen it. Now, that entertaining, glossy mag for women, a few short items from me, and it stopped being a new star, changing first into a White Dwarf (literally — it adopted a smaller format) and then into a Black Hole in the IPC firmament. RIP.

You certainly missed Good

Times, a giveaway publication produced for a chain of hotels. After a few thousand words from my typewriter on receptionists, the man behind it came up with another "freebie", this time a glossy mag for women. A few short items from me, and it stopped being a new star, changing first into a White Dwarf (literally — it adopted a smaller format) and then into a Black Hole in the IPC firmament. RIP.

After a while *Seven Days*, a radical weekly, came along. It lasted for over 355 days, long enough to publish the (repeated) article but not long enough, alas, to pay for it.

Sometimes during that saga there existed a periodical called *Science in Action*. This went out of action, and no wonder, printing as it did a page written by a scientific ignoramus like me. There was once a fortnightly known as *Quest*; I had an association with it, it was taken over and now survives as the second half of the monthly *Harper's Queen*.

Going back further into the mists of what I like to think of as my career, there was once a Cambridge illustrated paper that traded under the name of *CanCom*. Its contributors included people who are now the leading lights of *The Sunday Times*, *The Observer* and the *Financial Times*. This talent, alas, went for nothing. It was edited by a recent graduate, me. There was twice a paper known as *CanCom*, but the public would not stand for a third issue.

Even *Verity*, the student rag where I spent my formative years, is with us no longer, save as an echo in the masthead of *Stop Press*, which replaced it.

Given all these steeds shot from beneath me, it is small wonder that I begin to see myself as in some way responsible for the fate of Vol. Can I be some sort of Jonah who should be thrown overboard by the crew of any publication that wishes to stay afloat?

The only point in my favour is that while much of the freelance activity mentioned above was taking place, I held down at the time a steady job as a weekly publication. This magazine seems perfectly healthy. But, in order to avoid wiping thousands from the shares overnight, I have not asked not to say which it is.

Jonathan Sale

had it been in force, would have allowed The Times to have published virtually all they knew about thalidomide, and might have cut the children's financial anguish by many years. We still do not have a system of compensating deformed children according to their need, without having to prove negligence on anyone's part. The story of the newspaper's epic struggle to get justice for the children has now been put on video, by the University of Warwick's Audio-Visual Centre and its School of Law. The half-hour video, which can be bought or hired, presents *The Sunday Times* case in the context of the protection of human rights in Europe, via the European Convention.

Police challenge

Two persistent criticisms of police in recent years have been that they needlessly harass youths, especially blacks, and that they "verbal" suspects — in effect, fabricate evidence by putting words in a suspect's mouth. Lord Scarman, in his report into the causes of the Brixton riots has lent credence to the first charge and bluntly accused Lambeth police of harassment; yesterday a new study of criminal trials offered equally blunt evidence for "verbalising". It would be a pity if this report is neglected because Scarman's White Paper has hogged the limelight.

The new evidence — that policemen sometimes manufacture statements to secure convictions in cases where they are convinced of a suspect's guilt

Spare the children

Twenty years ago today, Distillers withdrew thalidomide from the market. The children deformed by the drug are now grown up and, happily, many are leading full, interesting, normal lives, helped by the relatively good compensation that Distillers were eventually persuaded to pay.

The legal consequences of the thalidomide tragedy are still with us. We have just had a new Contempt of Court Act which,

THE TIMES DIARY



John Arlott, wine connoisseur, cricketing aficionado and the world's most magical voice-over, has a new house on the small Channel Island of Alderney. From there on Monday he will announce the first three names in what he considers the best cricketing side in the world. The names will be Dennis Lillee, Ian Botham and Laurie Constantine. Arlott has been selecting his best XI, plus 10 reserves, as part of

a project in aid of muscular-dystrophy research. The three names unveiled at the champagne reception next week will be the first in a series of "Arlott immortals" who will be depicted as 12m-high porcelain figures in action created by Andre Lorré — a Polish-born ceramic artist. The set of figures, limited to 150 copies of each figure, will include 11 English, six Australian and four West Indian players. They will be marketed next March after the English team returns from India.

Margaret Fergusson says her father-in-law, Lord Ballantyne, "knew exactly what was meant when he was told in the Solomon Islands, 'tummy belong me gone runabout'. One hopes it eventually came to heel". George Martell Picher (a suitable name, it ever there was one) writes: "I once met an Aberdeen on an engineering site in Shetland. It was horribly early in the morning and he was in danger of bleeding to death from the eyeballs. 'Ah've got err mouth lukkair soaked in wullie-wullie', he roared in his native fur-lined tongue. It loses something in the translation which, I understand, is: 'I have a mouth like a zoo-keeper's wellie, William'."

I am also told that, strictly speaking, a hangover first meant to continue to feel drunk on the morning after, rather than to have a headache, which explains

why Eddie Condon, the jazz musician, called his condition "hollover". Ernest Anderson of London, says Condon had a friend called Clancy who was "the originator of the most efficacious of all hangover cures. The recipe began: 'Take the juice of two quarts of whisky...'"



Lady Pamela Hicks, Lord Mountbatten's daughter, is very moved by the plan to install stained-glass windows as a memorial to her father in St George's Anglican Cathedral in Cape Town. I have good news for her: the noted French stained glass artist, Gabriel Loire, has just arrived in South Africa to discuss details of the window, which will, I hear, have the theme of 'Christ stilling the storm on the sea of Galilee'.

According to the dean, the very Reverend E. L. King, this is appropriate "showing as it will the divine power triumphing over the forces of evil, turmoil and darkness".

imagination — verbals and that. "Well, the officers' weren't convincing and their verbals good enough — they didn't have good imaginations. You see, when you know a bloke has done it, and I know [the defendant] was guilty, you sometimes have to resort to verbals."

"It happens all the time and usually it comes off, but here the verbals weren't good enough. When you have been in the force as long as I have, over 20 years, I know, or at least I think I know, when the bloke is guilty..."

The academics, after a study of the trials of almost 5,000 defendants in Birmingham and London, conclude that "safeguards available to suspects in police custody are virtually non-existent." Scarman's call for lay visitors to police stations might help here.

For Mountbatten...

Lady Pamela Hicks, Lord Mountbatten's daughter, is very moved by the plan to install stained-glass windows as a memorial to her father in St George's Anglican Cathedral in Cape Town. I have good news for her: the noted French stained glass artist, Gabriel Loire, has just arrived in South Africa to discuss details of the window, which will, I hear, have the theme of 'Christ stilling the storm on the sea of Galilee'. According to the dean, the very Reverend E. L. King, this is appropriate "showing as it will the divine power triumphing over the forces of evil, turmoil and darkness".

Peter Watson



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MRS THATCHER'S NEW POUND

Mrs. Thatcher, the hostess at the European summit in London today and tomorrow, has an opportunity to combine a graceful gesture with an act of economic realism. It is a fusion ideally suited to her, not least since it also requires her resolution to over-ride the pallid cast of Treasury second, third and fourth thoughts. She should announce that Britain has decided to join the European Monetary System. The Chancellor Sir Geoffrey Howe has talked long enough about giving this "serious consideration". This is the moment to do it, and at a realistic exchange rate for the pound. Mrs Thatcher can then put Mrs. Shirley Williams and Mr. Roy Jenkins in the shade by launching a new initiative to make the system the basis for world currency stability rather than the regional zone which it currently is. And that is fundamental for any hope for a return to world prosperity.

The EMS is far from perfect; but it is the best system of currency stability we have got. Of the options currently open to the Government, it offers the best chance of providing a long term basis for economic recovery and stability. It also provides important political advantages. The economic arguments have changed significantly in favour of full membership of the system since it was set up. We have all learned the difficulties of controlling the money supply in one country and the damage which attempts to do so can cause. We have seen the chaos in the world monetary system send sterling soaring to unacceptable heights and then drive the Government to raise interest rates in the middle of a recession.

The need for currency stability is twofold. The economy as a whole is damaged when a parity gyrates wildly without relation to inflation or output, as it has done. One minute the exchange rate is an engine of

inflation, the next an anchor of depression. Even worse, the process destroys the balance of the economy, the effect in Britain has been precisely the opposite of what almost everyone except the far left agrees is required. The public sector has been further engorged and the private trading sector diminished. The unjustified rise in real wages brought about by an over-valued currency should have led to a fall in money wages. But public sector workers, in safe jobs and with disproportionately increased wages and salaries, have merely been enabled to buy more imported goods and foreign holidays. While that has gone on, those who work in industry have seen their jobs, and their industries, wiped out. A sixth of manufacturing industry has been destroyed in the past two years, in considerable measure because of the failure to have a policy for the exchange rate.

After too long during which it tried to ignore the exchange rate, the Government now says that it takes it into account in its decisions about interest rates and taxation. It is the typical languid compromise of the trimmer. The present intention seems to be to look at the rate's effect on the value of the pound, which is a measure of its value, against all currencies. That approach too, is wrong and in three ways.

First, the target is too vague. The Government does not say what exchange rate it wants the pound to have and Ministers make it clear that other goals, like the money supply, still have priority. Officials love leaving things vague; it allows them to decide as they go along which of the various conflicting objectives the Government sets itself they actually pursue. Industry should not be left in the dark in this way. The exchange rate target ought to be made explicit and ought to be the primary one of Government policy, the one that it really means to meet.

The second defect is that the target is the wrong one in any case. What matters most of all is the position of our industry. Half our trade is with countries which are either full members of the EMS or tie their currencies to it. It is the relationship between the pound and the currencies of these countries which matters above all. That is where we should be focusing our attention.

The third fault in arguing for an informal target on the effective rate is that we have less chance of getting stability on our own than in partnership with the European countries.

The dithering and increasingly inelegant equivocation is not, as everyone knows, the work of Mrs Thatcher, herself. It is not her style. She must tell the Treasury she is tired — she ought to be exhausted — of their energy in inventing new excuses as the old ones are successively falsified. She should order a negotiation: the best solution would be to use the specially wide bands allowing six per cent fluctuation as a "running in" period. We could move to the narrower bands at a later date.

Membership of the EMS is a cornerstone but not the whole foundation for economic revival. The whole trading world requires currency stability; competitive deflation and interest-rate wars are blank cheques for speculators, drawn on human misery. Britain can play a leading role in reform but we cannot go on a crusade to persuade the Americans and the Japanese that they should be good neighbours if we are unable to demonstrate that we are living happily, and thriving, within our own family of the European Community.

Mrs Thatcher often feels that five years is too short a time for the kind of long-term economic regeneration she desires. But eternity will not suffice for anyone who is led to believe that a modern nation can prosper on its own.

THE ARAB SUMMIT DEBACLE

It is no good trying to pretend that the collapse of the Arab summit in Fez is anything other than a disappointment. The "Fahd plan", it is true, was (a) not in fact a plan and (b) rejected by a sceptical Israel. Its adoption, therefore, would not have resulted in an immediate outbreak of peace in the Middle East. It would, however, have been an important statement by the Arabs, including the Palestinians, of willingness to make peace. Acceptance of the Fahd formula by the Palestine Liberation Organisation could have opened the way to a dialogue between the PLO and the United States, and this in time might have enabled the United States to mediate an Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement — the only settlement that would go to the root of the conflict.

Most experienced Middle East hands were sceptical about the Saudis' chances of getting Prince Fahd's eight points approved by the summit, unless in a form so amended as to deprive them of their significance. What was surprising was that the Saudis themselves were so confident. Their confidence was, it seems, based on several factors. First, neither Syria nor Iraq was in a strong position to contradict them, since Syria's involvement in Lebanon and Iraq's in Iran made both countries dependent on Saudi support.

Secondly, it was the first time that Saudi Arabia herself had taken an inter-Arab public initiative in inter-Arab affairs, rather than seeking only to bridge differences behind the scenes and provide financial and moral support for agreed positions. The Saudi leaders may have flattered themselves that this very fact would ensure that their initiative was treated with due respect. But the most important reason was certainly the

encouragement they received from Mr Yassir Arafat, the PLO chairman, who evidently led them to believe that he could deliver the support of his organization. If the PLO had supported the plan it would have been difficult for any Arab leader (except Colonel Gaddafi, who likes to be more royalist than the king) to oppose it publicly. But Mr Arafat, as the Saudis should have known, does not really control the PLO. It is a thoroughly faction-ridden organization, within which several Arab regimes have their supporters, but the crucial leverage is held by Syria. One aspect of the Lebanese war of 1976 was the PLO's attempt to break free of this Syrian tutelage. The Syrians won, and by gaining physical control of most of Lebanon also strengthened their grip on the PLO.

In 1977, President Carter offered to open a dialogue with the PLO if it would accept Security Council Resolution 242, thereby acknowledging "the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force". Mr Arafat wanted to accept the offer but the Syrian regime (which had itself accepted Resolution 242 as part of the terms of the 1973 ceasefire) gave the thumbs down at a meeting of the Palestinian Central Council in Damascus Mr Arafat was overwhelmingly outvoted.

What has just happened is essentially a re-run of that script. The key point of the Fahd plan reproduces the key point of Resolution 242 only more succinctly: "all states in the region should be able to live in peace". Again, Mr Arafat was in favour, but the Syrians were against, and again Mr Arafat was outvoted.

only this time it seems the vote was taken in the PLO executive.

The result is a considerable snub for the Saudis, and it can be assumed that they are angry. It would not be surprising if the Syrians find that Saudi payments for the "Arab Deterrent Force" in Lebanon are quietly held up. But it would be more than surprising — it would be entirely out of character — for the Saudis to allow a durable and public quarrel to develop between them and a sizeable group of Arab states including the PLO. They value their reputation as champions of the Arab cause too much for that. They could decide quietly to shelve their peace plan. More likely they will make further efforts to get it adopted, but using subtler and more patient diplomacy.

The result is also a snub for the European Community, and for Lord Carrington in particular. But it is worst news of all for the Palestinian people who ever since the birth of Israel have paid dearly for the extremism and intrigue of the Arab radicals who destroyed the Lebanon, nearly destroyed Jordan and will not rest, they say, until they have destroyed Israel. The Arab radicals can frustrate the Saudis, and the Jordanians, and would here like to frustrate the Egyptians but they cannot deliver anything except what they have delivered in the past: bloodshed and fury. One day perhaps the lesson will sink home. In the meantime the Camp David peace process has the field to itself. Lord Carrington's activities, were predicated on the assumption that Camp David would not lead to a Palestinian settlement because Israel would never offer enough real autonomy to attract Palestinian participation. Israel now has a chance to prove him wrong again.

between these points — the children of the better-paid manual workers and the worse-paid clerical and professional workers. A change in the scales by which the parental contribution is calculated, or simply a failure to adjust them for inflation, would bear heavily on this middle group, and widen it a little at each end. One that reduced the numbers eligible for a full grant would reduce the numbers of students from the poorer families; but one that reduced or eliminated the minimum amount payable to all students, as it would affect only the well-to-do, would have virtually no effect on the numbers trying to gain university and college places. A reduction in the standard value of the grant, which also would

mean parents would pay more, would affect all groups except the relatively wealthy. It is in the middle-income group, hardest hit by the parental contribution, that the most floating voters are to be found — those people whose support an MP in a marginal seat has to gain if he is to be re-elected. Those Conservative MPs in marginal seats (and which of them are not, now?) ought to be asking Sir Keith Joseph some very searching questions about what he is proposing to do to their floating voters. Yours faithfully, ERNEST RUDD, University of Essex, Department of Sociology, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester. November 18.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Judges' objection to sentencing proposal

From Lord Justice Lawton
Sir, I was surprised to learn from Lord Longford's speech in the House of Lords on November 24 last that I have been a party with my brethren to thwarting the Home Secretary's proposals for dealing with the grave problem of overcrowding in prisons. I have done nothing of the kind, nor, as far as I know, have any of my brethren.

In October last the Lord Chief Justice called a meeting of the Lord Justices who preside in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division), and I am the senior one doing so, for the purpose of discussing with the Home Secretary's proposals for dealing with overcrowding in the prisons. One was that all fixed sentences should be divided into three equal parts. The offenders would serve the first part, be released under supervision for the second part, and get remission, as now, for the third part.

None of us liked this proposal for the following reason. Most of the overcrowding occurs in local prisons and is caused there by persistent offenders, mostly thieves and housebreakers who, because they keep offending, usually get sentences of between 18 months and two years. The Home Secretary's proposal would have meant that such offenders would be let out of prison after between six and eight months.

Our experience of the administration of criminal justice, which in my case goes back over 46 years, led us to think that these recidivists would be likely to

start offending again in the same sort of way within days or weeks of being released. This would not have found favour with the public. Custodial sentences may not do much good for those who receive them; but it is often forgotten that whilst persistent offenders are in prison they are not preying on the public.

We all appreciated that in these circumstances there would be a serious case for early release in order to protect the public. I was, however, able to remind those present that when release on parole was introduced in 1967 the then Lord Chief Justice, Lord Parker, had asked the Queen's Bench judges not to take the possibility of the grant of parole into account when fixing the length of sentences. They have not done so.

If Parliament did decide to adopt the Home Secretary's proposal for early release, the judges would, of course, accept the new law whatever opinions they might have about its wisdom.

In conclusion I would like to record that many of the senior judges and some part of their misgiving about the proposal was addressed in the meetings of the Magistrates' Association and urging those present to consider passing shorter sentences. Since January 1 last I have addressed seven such meetings.

Yours sincerely, FREDERICK LAWTON, Royal Courts of Justice, WC2. November 26.

EEC budget

From Mr Robert Jackson, MEP for Upper Thames (Conservative)
Sir, The negotiations about the restructuring of the Community budget, which reach a crucial stage at the European Council meeting in London of November 26-27, are a classic instance of what game theory calls "zero-sum bargaining". The issues are so intractable, and so dangerous, because there is a sense in which British, and German, interests are at the expense of the interests of our partners, who are either in net surplus from the budget or benefit from the CAP (common agricultural policy).

Games theory offers at least three ways of attempting to resolve a "zero-sum" conflict. The first, and the one we are using in the context of this negotiation, is 1. Broadening the issues so that all parties can claim some success. This is, I believe, an essential aspect of the Genscher-Colombo plan for European Union. It is the element in the thinking of those who argue that now is the time for Britain to join the European Monetary System; it also underlies the question whether and when the Community's means of financing new policies should be increased. On the other hand there is the risk. We must succeed in this negotiation; but if we define "success" in unrealistic terms, or if we build up an atmosphere of confrontation, there is surely now a serious risk, with the Opposition in its present mood, that such a bluff might be called by public opinion here at home — with ruinous consequences for Britain.

Yours sincerely, ROBERT JACKSON, 4 Churton Place, SW1. November 24.

Peril in Amazon basin

From Mr Derek Lovejoy
Sir, Today (November 27), the Foreign Minister of Brazil arrives for consultation with the Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington. No doubt trade will take a prominent part in their discussions.

There is at present, great concern at worldwide environmental deterioration and particularly the catastrophic environmental destruction which is taking place in Brazil. Some of the last great reserves of the Earth's forests are being destroyed at such a rate that they will be exhausted within five years. The very fragile soil of the Amazon basin will become a desert with the consequent effect on the world's climate.

The Brazilian Government has announced that measures are being taken, but these are so minor as to be relatively ineffective. Could Lord Carrington impress upon the Brazilian Government the international community's attempt to ensure that any increase in British trade which has environmental impact does not escalate the situation?

Paisley and Ulster

From Dr Kenneth Lane
Sir, I find the letter from Professor Yorick Wilks (November 24) difficult to understand.

The universal condemnation of the Reverend Ian Paisley is due to the fact that he proclaims his loyalty to the Crown and Government of the United Kingdom and at the same time flouts its laws and order in Ulster. His unwarranted attacks on the Government are louder and more ferocious than his condemnation of the IRA. Even the dead of English, Scottish and Welsh regiments fail to silence him. He resembles the animal who bites the hand that restrains it from suicide.

Most British people sympathize profoundly with the loyalists, and regret their long and bravely accepted sufferings at the hands of the terrorists, and understand their mistrust of certain Catholic families who harbour and encourage the IRA. If Mr Paisley used his powerful voice to encourage his followers to assist the security forces by careful intelligence work he would be as popular in Britain as he now is unpopular.

reach terms on alternative transitional support for socially marginal farming. Are we serious about limiting the Community's obligation to intervene to buy up surplus produce? If so, we must surely swallow the pill of relief for small producers. Do we really want to avoid any increase in CAP import controls? If so, we may have to accept a more organized Community food export policy.

3. "Raising the ante". This is what the Labour Government did when it posed the threat of British withdrawal from the Community in 1974-75. They got little by this ploy. Mrs Thatcher, however, had better success last year with the implied threat of an interruption in the transfer of resources to the Community.

This time I believe we must eschew tactics of this kind, for two paradoxical reasons. On one hand there is the question of the credibility of the threat to pursue disruption to a point which might put our membership in question. None of our partners believes that Britain will really stake nearly half of our export trade and the central element in our foreign policy, against an act of budget contribution amounting to less than 1 per cent of public expenditure.

On the other hand there is the risk. We must succeed in this negotiation; but if we define "success" in unrealistic terms, or if we build up an atmosphere of confrontation, there is surely now a serious risk, with the Opposition in its present mood, that such a bluff might be called by public opinion here at home — with ruinous consequences for Britain.

Yours sincerely, ROBERT JACKSON, 4 Churton Place, SW1. November 24.

(Perhaps this could be applied to all of Her Majesty's Government's policy where industrial operations will cause severe environmental impact.)

Further, there have been reports that the British Government is reducing its international commitment and presence in Antarctica and that Brazil is becoming increasingly interested in this continent because of the enormous mineral resources, with the result that Brazil may partially fill the vacuum left by the British.

If what is happening in Brazil is allowed to happen in Antarctica, this will see the destruction of one of the Earth's last great natural landscapes. HMG must ensure that before it reduces its responsibilities or commitments there must be adequate environmental safeguards. Yours faithfully, DEREK LOVEJOY, First Vice-President, International Federation of Landscape Architects, Forest Dene, Worth, Crawley, West Sussex.

I found the sneer in Professor Wilks's last paragraph offensive. Am I alone in finding no historical justification for the famous French phrase? Yours faithfully, KENNETH LANE, Woodland Cottage, Gadbridge Lane, Ewhurst, Surrey. November 24.

Rolling start

From Mr J. D. Goodwin
Sir, The report from New York (November 21) on the recent Rolling Stones concerts betrays your correspondent's falling memory of the group's famous Oxford performance.

If he is right in his suggestion that this was "the day the counter-culture was actually born" it should be recorded that the occasion was the Magdalen College Commemoration Ball on June 22, 1964, after anyone present that evening might be allowed to fall because of union and wages-council pressure. Perhaps this pressure explains in part why youth unemployment is so high. Certainly the argument requires further research rather than mere dismissal. Yours faithfully, DAVID FORREST, Department of Economics, University of Manchester, Manchester.

Significance of Vickers sentence

From Mr N. L. Hillier
Sir, I am surprised that Mr Sieghart (November 24) should be confused as to the judge's reasons for making the recommendation in respect of Mr Vickers's sentence.

It is a sound and well-established principle of sentencing policy in English courts that where an offence is facilitated by the offender's holding a position of trust the offence is regarded as particularly grave.

One must be entitled to expect that a bank clerk will not filch from one's account, a policeman not tender false evidence or a solicitor embezzle his client's funds precisely because to do so is made easier by the trust which must necessarily be placed in these persons.

Mr Vickers's offence was doubly odious in that he abused both his position as a doctor and that of his victim's faith in him in order to further his own miserable ambitions.

Yours faithfully, N. L. HILLIER, Richard Arnold and Son, 79 Aki Misouli, Piraeus, Greece.

From the Reverend G. R. Curry

Sir, Mr Sieghart puts his finger on a crucial issue in his letter published today (November 24). Yet the direction he appears to want to go in is at the least unsettling and at the worst horrifying. He seems to be advocating the humanitarian theory of punishment which sees punishment as having only a three-fold aim: the reformation of the criminal; the protection of the public; and as a deterrent to potential lawbreakers.

Unfortunately this view has a serious flaw, so serious that in effect it leads to a devaluing of humanity, as the late C. S. Lewis so cogently argues in his paper, *The Abolition of Man*. It fails to see punishment as punishment. Whilst the three things mentioned above are important they can only have real value when we add this fourth, and more important, dimension.

If we wish to have a just and humane society then this concept of retribution must not be excluded. This is not to advocate vindictiveness, as Mr Sieghart implies, but rather true "old-fashioned" justice. And, if justice is to be done, then every criminal should (at the time of sentencing at least) understand that he is getting that which he deserves.

You see, Sir, the real question we should be asking is: "What is the appropriate punishment for murder?" Is it life imprisonment or something else? Yours sincerely, GEORGE R. CURRY, The Vicarage, Farnham, Surrey. November 24.

Alliance fares policy

From Mr Michael Steed
Sir, Your report "Liberals and SDP split over GLC fares" (*The Times*, November 18) contrasted the considered views of the Liberal Party with a statement by one ex-Labour Social Democrat, Mr Jim Daly. I do not know whether, when their party has had time to consider its transport policy, the Social Democrats will come to share the Liberal Party's emphasis on the need to maintain cheap public transport in large cities. But on the other issue at stake, the threat that Lord Denning's judgement makes to elected local government, surely the SDP has already declared itself for the Liberal position?

When they launched the party, the Social Democratic leaders included as one of their 12 tasks "Decentralisation: Decisions should more often be made at local level. In the conference paper on "Local Government and Finance" Mr Tyrrell Burgess stated that the SDP's object should be "to strengthen the independence and responsibility of local government".

Wages of the young

From Mr David Forrest
Sir, Mr Chris Kaufman claims (*Business News*, November 19) that the current high rate of youth unemployment cannot be attributed to the relatively high wages of the young being too high. He quotes as evidence the fact that the ratio of youth to adult wages has been almost constant since 1973. What he ignores is that the period since 1973 has seen a sharp rise in the number of teenagers, as the largest cohorts of the baby boom have reached working age.

Standard economic theory predicts that an increased supply of a particular type of labour would only be absorbed into employment if its relative price were to fall. The relative price of youth labour has not been allowed to fall because of union and wages-council pressure. Perhaps this pressure explains in part why youth unemployment is so high. Certainly the argument requires further research rather than mere dismissal. Yours faithfully, DAVID FORREST, Department of Economics, University of Manchester, Manchester.

Festival Hall box

From Mr Michael Kaye
Sir, Like Mr Hunter (November 24) we, too, would like to see the ceremonial box in the Royal Festival Hall used as often as possible, and on those occasions when it is not required by royalty or by members of the Greater London Council for official visitors, promoters of concerts and other relevant people. The box must, however, be used appropriately and it must be held available to the council until a reasonable time before each concert for its prime purpose.

There is, of course, no way in which members of the council or others can be compelled to hear the artists Mr Hunter represents, but the council is examining proposals for widening the availability of the ceremonial box so that it will be in use more often in future. I am, Sir, yours faithfully, MICHAEL KAYE, General Administrator, South Bank Concert Halls, SE1.

From Mr A. P. Fawcett
Sir, Board games currently played within my own household embrace the following subjects: murder, spying, betting on racehorses, art forgery, and property speculation. All are in thoroughly bad taste. Should they be withdrawn from general sale? Yours faithfully, AUSTIN FAWCETT, 71 Tom Lane, Sheffield. November 24.

fashioned" justice. And, if justice is to be done, then every criminal should (at the time of sentencing at least) understand that he is getting that which he deserves.

You see, Sir, the real question we should be asking is: "What is the appropriate punishment for murder?" Is it life imprisonment or something else? Yours sincerely, GEORGE R. CURRY, The Vicarage, Farnham, Surrey. November 24.

From Mr Nicky Bird

Sir, Paul Sieghart's claim (November 24) that the surgeon who murdered his wife should be treated leniently as he has no more wives to murder, reminds me of the youth who chopped up his parents and then asked for clemency because he was an orphan.

Yours faithfully, NICKY BIRD, 3 Randolph Mews, W9.

From Mr R. A. Howard

Sir, Why does Mr Paul Sieghart think that the punishment should not fit the crime? Not many practising surgeons murder their wives and so Dr Vickers should be treated leniently. Not many practising solicitors murder the Lord Chancellor and the Master of the Rolls — indeed, not any — and so presumably if I were to do so Mr Sieghart would recommend that my punishment should be even less than that he would award Dr Vickers.

The stability of any society which refuses to recognise that retribution is an essential ingredient in punishment is undermined.

Yours faithfully, ROBIN A. HOWARD, The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1.

From Mr Michael De-la-Noy

Sir, Mr Paul Sieghart might have added to his excellent letter questioning the wisdom of condemning us to see Mr Paul Vickers in prison for 17 years the fact that it will cost us in excess of £100,000.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL DE-LA-NOY, 54 Goudar Gardens, NW6.

If these principles mean what they say, Social Democrats, along with Liberals, should be standing by the right of the Greater London Council to determine a policy for London transport fares, accountable to the electorate. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL STEED, Wood Cottage, Ewood Lane, Todmorden, Lancashire. November 21.

Representation

From Mrs Lavender Westwood
Sir, As a small trader in London I find myself in the situation of having to pay excessive taxation without representation (shop money?).

I suggest that for the hearing of Mr Livingston's rate appeal it would be in keeping to revive the Star Chamber. Yours faithfully, LAVENDER WESTWOOD, Boadicea, 42 Beauchamp Place, SW3. November 23.

SDP and education

From Professor Lord Bellif, FBA
Sir, I do not know whether Mr Michael McCrum (feature November 18) has read Mrs Shirley Williams's article in *The Times* to which Dr John Rae (November 21) refers: as a fastidious scholar he may find her turgid prose too much to take. However, I have read it and I can assure him and you that it in no way corresponds to the analysis proffered by Dr Rae.

Mrs Williams reveals herself in this article, as in everything she says and writes, hostile to independent education at any level. The only shift in her position has been made to take into account the obstacles placed by the European Convention of Human Rights in the way of the outright prohibition of independent education that is Labour Party policy. Instead of ex-ecution, we are to have the death of a thousand cuts.

The issue is one of principle not of procedure. Either you believe, as does Mr McCrum and as a headmaster of Westminster School ought to, that independent education confers great benefits not only on the children for whom it caters but on the whole educational system, independent and maintained, or you believe as do Mrs Williams and other socialists that it is somehow a regrettable and "socially divisive" anomaly. It is possible honestly to take either view; it is not acceptable to try to straddle between them. Yours truly, BELOFF, House of Lords. November 21.

Game for anything?

From Mr A. P. Fawcett
Sir, Board games currently played within my own household embrace the following subjects: murder, spying, betting on racehorses, art forgery, and property speculation. All are in thoroughly bad taste. Should they be withdrawn from general sale? Yours faithfully, AUSTIN FAWCETT, 71 Tom Lane, Sheffield. November 24.

THE ARTS

Television

Parental conviction

The Harrisons are the kind of family who give education authorities a special kind of headache. They are neither feckless nor failing but different and determined to remain so. Two of their four children went to school for short periods; two have never been. All four are dyslexic and their parents believe that by educating them at home, enabling them to cope with the world by acquiring basic skills and coming to academic ones only when they are ready, they can do a better job than a school, even when it has a special unit to cope with dyslexia.

It is a mighty undertaking, which would surely leave most of us feeling ill-equipped, and such parental resolution conflicts with authority which has to consider the welfare of the children; whether, if it does nothing, the children might one day decide they have been let down by their parents and authority, all the people who could be expected to know better.

This was the dilemma *Forty Minutes* considered on BBC 2 last night. The Harrisons, 18, Ade, 16, Grant, 16, and Newall, 11 — were talked to and seen round the family's Worcestershire smallholding which is their classroom. Here they manifested impressive practical skills which, their parents believe,

Dennis Hackett

Concerts

Rare and welcome

BBCSO/Boulez

Festival Hall/Radio 3

London sees and hears little of Pierre Boulez since he left his post as chief conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra in 1975. On Wednesday, a well-heard and well-remembered audience welcomed him back to the South Bank.

His oeuvre grows slowly, and on Wednesday he presented no new work. His music germinates, is re-fashioned, left suspended until all its possibilities are exhausted, many of them realizable only through performance. His *Libro per Corde*, for instance, which we heard juxtaposed revealingly with a finely-managed performance of Weber's *Five Moments for Orchestra*, is like the Webern, an extensive orchestral reworking, rebirth even, of an earlier work for quartet. Only one of its six movements has yet been transformed, its shifting, concluding melodic strands reflected as Boulez puts it, through the instrumental groupings "as if in multiple mirrors", its energy colling, springing and pouncing.

In *Pi selon pi*, though, Boulez presents us with a microcosm of creation and re-creation itself. As its movements open out, fold upon fold, the words from five poems of Mallarmé become absorbed and eventually displaced, through its

Dubious novelties

LMP/Blech

Queen Elizabeth Hall

New works by Mozart and Haydn were billed for Wednesday's concert by the London Mozart Players under Harry Blech. The Mozart to be exact was not quite new to London, though certainly new to present Londoners since the last performance was probably its premiere in February, 1765. This was the long-lost Symphony in F that turned up in Munich last year and could immediately be identified because Mozart's father had once noted down its opening bars. Radio 3 let us hear it during the summer.

It stands well enough alongside the other compositions perhaps showing touch of paternal help — of the nine-year-old boy. There is a brisk, busy first movement, not unlike J.C. Bach, shapely if rather sectional; a charming Andante distinguished by its neatly managed accompanying parts; and a slightly ordinary though amply spirited finale. Nannerl Mozart related how, as her brother wrote these

first symphonies, he urged her to remind him to give something interesting to the horns. No other surviving one has even faintly interesting horn parts, but this piece happily corroborates the tale.

The "Haydn" was a cello concerto. But this was no true novelty, just the resurrection of a feeble piece long known and long rejected from the Haydn canon (the misleadingly titled *Concerto for Cello*). Some think it the work of the obscure G. B. Costanzi. Never mind: it allowed us to hear the remarkable artistry of Julian Lloyd Webber, the most understated and perceptive phrasing can animate even the dullest series of sequences and whose sure technique can justify a very naughty cadenza.

Stanley Sadie

● The Spring Season of the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall will include two concerts conducted by John Pritchard, the orchestra's Chief Conductor-elect. Guest appearances will be made by Michael Gleason, Charles Groves, Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, Karlheinz Stockhausen and Rudolf Barshai. Gunter Wand and Brian Wright will conduct the orchestra's spring concerts at the Royal Albert Hall.

Two major choral works, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and Elgar's *The Apostles*, will be performed. There will be three concerts of twentieth-century music, two of these forming part of the BBC/LOCE "Music of Eight Decades" series. Stockhausen's *Moti* — a work which incorporates mimes — will be given on March 3 and directed by the composer, who will also give a pre-concert talk.

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Cinema

Bertolucci on the ambiguity of youth

Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man (AA)

Gate, Notting Hill

Monique Dearest (AA)

Plaza

A Slap in the Face

National Film Theatre

Bernardo Bertolucci's newest film, *Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man*, marks a break with his previous work in several ways. It is, he says, "prose not poetry". The impression of a consciously more prosaic style, without the old baroque and bravura, is emphasized by the harder style of the cinematographer Carlo di Palma, replacing Bertolucci's usual collaborator Vittorio Storaro, who was not available for the film.

The ostensible subject, a kidnapping, is up-to-the-minute: Ugo Tognazzi plays Primo, a cheese manufacturer of Parma or thereabouts, "the sort of small entrepreneur who keeps Italy's economy moving in the midst of anarchy". But anarchy overtakes Primo: one day he witnesses the kidnapping of his own son. Despite his growing suspicion that the kidnapping may be some sort of trick engineered by the son himself, Primo sets systematically about disposing of his goods and assets, to bargain with the kidnappers. His bourgeois wife (Anouk Aimée) accepts more easily than Primo, the self-made businessman, that they live in a world where you get what you pay for, even if it is a human life.

The most fundamental change from the director's earlier works comes from one significant fact: that Bernardo Bertolucci, the youthful prodigy of twenty years ago, is forty now. Practically all of his films have been about fathers and sons; but this is the first time the director sees with the father's eyes. He even wrote the scenario, he reveals, in the first person. The young, he acknowledges, have now become a mystery to him. His younger actors have "the dark, introspective secret looks I like". They talk less than my generation did, says Primo; "and from their silence you cannot figure out if they are asking for help or getting ready to shoot you... Our children represent the dreadful ambiguity of our life today."

The problem of the film is that Bertolucci is overly fascinated by enigma for its own sake, and leaves the audience rather groping after his intentions. He explains cheerfully: "The film reflects an ambiguity I feel is typical of Italian



Keeping Italy's economy moving: Ugo Tognazzi in "Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man"

society today — and elsewhere too. There are no certainties left: no one knows any more what the truth is — about the Kennedy assassinations or the British spy scandals or the murder of Aldo Moro. Which is true enough, but leaves Bertolucci's audience in disconcerting suspension.

In the matter of Joan Crawford's adopted children I speak with the shrewd authority of one who once had the job of minding them. It was when their mother was filming *The Story of Esther Costello*, and my charges did not include Christina Crawford, on whose reminiscences the film *Mommie Dearest* is based, since she was being punished at the time for some slight fault by incarceration in a convent school. I was responsible for the alleged twins, Cathy and Cindy, then around eight.

Miss Crawford, even in 1957, was still an extraordinary and fascinating creature. She was slighter, more girlish and saunter in colouring than you might imagine from the photographs; and she had still, when on show, something of the vibrancy of Wild Diana Merrick, the character she embodied in *Our Dancing Daughters* in 1928, and who exulted "It feels so good — just to be alive." That was when Scott Fitzgerald described her "dancing deliciously, laughing a great deal, with wide, hurt eyes." She carried her feelings like grazes on the skin: the slightest thing could inflame them. A telephone call from a fan (answered personally of course)

would produce a flood of grateful tears. If the children were momentarily out of her sight, she would be certain they had been kidnapped or had fallen off the balcony of the Oliver Messel Suite, and would react on a scale appropriate to such catastrophe. This, of course, added somewhat to the hazards of minding the twins; but it went off all right.

As to the children, had I known that physical attack was part of Miss Crawford's programme I might have volunteered a thump or two. Once out of her hearing, they were the most awful little minxes; though it was hard not to admire their fiendish impersonations of Joan Crawford's "my little dawlins" performance. My credence in *Mommie Dearest* is enhanced by seeing the infant Christina doing precisely the same unkind but deadly accurate imitations.

Frank Perry's film of *Mommie Dearest* is a horror story a shade less fearful than the original book. The sort of compassion and understanding that Crawford, as she is, requires is inevitably hardest for the children who experienced her parenthood to feel. At bottom, no doubt, her need to have children was genuine. So, certainly, was the belief in the ultimate benefits of the very old-fashioned, physical and moral discipline from which she had never spared herself.

The problems for everyone concerned arose when this iron discipline came into conflict or coincidence with the caprices, the neuroses, the hysteria and the

anxieties of the actress. Crawford battled to the top and maintained her place for more than forty years. The appalling strain upon her personality was shared with those around her. Time made the strains only more intolerable: the fear of age and failure was finally to tumble her into drink and reclusion.

Christina Crawford's story does not mince matters: life as the child of this sacred Hollywood monster was most of the time hell. The film spares none of the agonies of the relationship, from the adoption of Baby Christina in 1940 to the star's end, all painted up in a Californian funeral parlour in 1977. "I did it," says the mortician proudly, "from my own signed photograph of her."

The point of the film is the astounding make-up job that practically convinces you that Faye Dunaway is Joan Crawford. It is a puzzle though to decide whether to blame the director, the actress or the shade of Crawford herself when the star's hysterical set-pieces are pitched against guileless excess so ludicrous that they provoke wild mirth rather than shock. In America the devotees chant out the favourite lines in chorus with the film: "Tina bring me the axe" (to chop down the garden in a tantrum; in real life it was merely a saw); or "Wire coat-hangers! I buy you 300-dollar dresses and you hang them on wire coat-hangers!" The coat-hangers are used for a thrashing only slightly less scary

than Crawford's sturdy attempt to strangle her daughter.

The lookalike game is well played. Harry Goz is much as I remember Alfred Steele, Crawford's docile and adoring Pepsi-Cola king. As the infant Christina, Mara Hobel is believable and touching; but she grew up to be Diana Scarwid, with an inexplicable southern accent and a bizarre likeness to Mercedes McCambridge. Crawford's on-and-off screen adversary in *Johnny Guitar*, Howard De Silva, is a one-time blacklist victim, must have found a wry satisfaction in playing Louis B. Mayer of MGM, Hollywood's most servile tool of McCarthyism.

For all the gruesome fascination of the careful recreations, *Mommie Dearest* is a dismal experience. Crawford devoted over forty years to giving people dreams: it is a mean trick now to drag up her nightmares, whatever one's sympathies with a child's resentments. The last and best word on the film comes from Varian, the unimpeachable trade paper of American show business: "Nobody ever lived a life that deserved this."

We owe to Patrick Gibbes, film critic of *The Daily Telegraph*, the discovery, in the wasteland of the Soviet cinema, of a jewel of a picture, made in the Armenian Republic, Henrik Malian's *A Slap in the Face*. It was shown last week in the London Film Festival; but there are further chances to see it (on December 1 and 8) in a season of Armenian films at the National Film Theatre. The existence of a lively Armenian cinema should surprise no one: after all the country produced both Rouben Mamoulian and Elia Kazan.

It is irresistible to invoke the memory of Pagnol's Marseilles stories in connexion with this comedy of small-town life in the early years of the century. The hero is an orphan, adopted and trained by the humble assiduity. The lad's slowness worries the good man, and after his death makes it hard for his widow to find a bride for the orphan — until the day the young man takes matters into his own hands and scandalizes the town by marrying the sweetest little prostitute from an itinerant brothel.

However exotic and colourful the setting, the people are reassuringly, humanly familiar. Malian has a wonderful way with comedy: the wordless study of the various ruses adopted by the local as they pretend that they are not rushing to the brothel is in itself a comic *tour de force*. In Soviet terms the film is thoroughly subversive in its assertion of the right to individual happiness, and the hypocrisy of the community. "The love community didn't care when I was unhappy," declares the hero, "and now they condemn me". He defies them, and takes our hearts with him as he proudly drives his wife and step-mother around the town, the one liberated man in the whole bigoted place.

David Robinson

Opera



Robert Dean as Pelléas, Elene Hannan as Mélisande

Pelléas and Mélisande

Coliseum

It was more than time to break the hallowed taboo against singing Debussy's masterpiece in English. Maurice Strakosky's words fit Debussy's vocal lines with a calculated precision that resists translation. They are not of epoch-making literary quality, but do need to be understood completely, if an audience is to be caught up in a fine performance of the piece, such as we heard at the Coliseum on Wednesday.

English National Opera had at last taken the plunge, and were staging *Pelléas and Mélisande* for the first time in their history. Most of us were hearing it sung in English for the first time, too. Hugh Macdonald, the translator of this version, being a musician himself, had simply made an apt rendering into English and fitted Debussy's notes to it, rather than the other way about. The new march of words and notes sounds perfectly stylish because it is musically. The words tell in performance with an immediacy that we also feel in the

ENO Ring. This *Pelléas* had more impact for me than any I have attended hitherto, though some improvements in word-stressing can still be made to the translation. I understood most of the sung words, even though the *Pelléas*, a brave last-minute replacement, was not yet sufficiently mature of voice to project easily in such a big house. The orchestral music, played with a full complement of passion and atmospheric evocation, was not down voices or words. *Pelléas* in English is not merely possible, it has happened, at least musically in a responsible Debussy style, an unexpected and major artistic achievement.

For a nicely stylish *Pelléas* in English: most of us might have chosen a French conductor and producer. ENO chose Mark Elder, who acquitted himself with real distinction, and Harry Kupfer in East Berlin. Kupfer gave us a more or less straight *Pelléas*, the drama and characters clearly drawn, some strong theatrical effects, but no cardinal sins against the music. Reinhard Heinrich's costumes suggested an updating to the turn of the century. *Pelléas* and *Ysolt* wore formal suits, Arkel wheeled himself in a bathchair and wore dark glasses. Geneviève was the French matriarch of Debussy's day.

Pelléas involves plentiful scene-changes. They are quickly done in this production without curtain-falls, there is a permanent set of two rotating greenhouses surrounded by steps to balconies. It did not work at the start in the dense forest, where Mélisande crouches by

a strip of kitchen foil representing a pool, below what looked like lobster claws. The sky is open, though text and music declare the forest to be dense.

Afterwards the fish fingers hover aloft as a bird of prey, waiting on the drama's events, watching with one eye, ravens, with an empty stomach that cannot be filled. The predatory menace makes its point, and duly descends at the end, leaving *Ysolt* holding Mélisande's baby at the front of the stage — a reasonable even if simplistic conclusion.

Kupfer's production does well by the tramps in the cave, and the trial of *Pelléas* in the dungeon (blinded by Golaud's torch, then again by return to daylight). He almost spoils the episode of Mélisande's tumbling hair by taking *Pelléas* away to sentimentalize over it. Some clumsy lighting-effects will surely be righted at once.

Kupfer gives us a good cast of characters. Neil Howlett's Golaud is unusually sympathetic, a reasonable fellow driven mad by jealous frustration. An experienced Australian *Mélisande*, has the fey, estranged quality, and the finesse of voice, for her most memorable lines and phrases. Hers is a potent, entrancing heroine, most touching. Her replacement *Pelléas*, Robert Dean, looked well in his dashing Byronic attire, and cut a romantic figure, even in antique surroundings. Sarah Walker's greedily authoritative Geneviève and John Tomlinson's deeply moving Arkel showed how much *Pelléas* has to give in English.

William Mann

London debuts

Daring choices

The oboist Peter Bree was more to be congratulated on an enterprising programme than most debutants. In Röniger's Sonata No 1 a late Romantic vocabulary is employed, rather unusually, in music that is clear-cut in gesture, almost neo-classical, and suggestive of the open air. The performance was reasonably tidy, as was that of Britten's *Temporal Variations*.

This latter has rarely been heard since its 1936 premiere, and is well made but cold, like so much of this composer's music. Andriessen's Sonata was an engagingly energetic teenage piece; of little consequence, it gave rise to playing. The Duo Op 156 by Rubbra had its first London hearing, and proved to be a sombre yet rather insistent trifle.

Mr Bree's pianist, Paul Komen, offered two solos and showed himself to have most of the technique necessary for Rachmaninov's *Corelli Variations*. The final pages were undeniably impressive in their force and amplitude, but generally this per se was concentrated on pianistic rather than musical aspects.

In a suite from Falla's *El Amor Brujo* Mr Komen's playing was spirited and colourful yet rather heavy in effect. He appeared to have a better appreciation of the room of this work than of the Rachmaninov, but his reading of it was less varied than ought to be possible with music that has so much rhythmic life.

It is unfortunate that nearly all cello recitalists feel they must include unaccompanied Bach, just as pianists seem compelled to play late Beethoven. Ksenija Jankovic began fluently with the D minor Suite yet showed no particular insight or sense of musical shape. She was then joined by Nada Kocman at the piano for Brahms's Sonata Op 99.

This was a rough and ready performance revealing scant regard for the music's style; in fact long passages managed with their severely unbalanced textures to sound quite unlike Brahms. In Debussy's Sonata Miss Jankovic produced a more sympathetic cello tone, but the reading was too overtly dramatic, especially on the pianist's part.

Max Harrison

Theatre

Jonsonian fun

The Soldier's Fortune

Lyric, Hammersmith

At the time he wrote this extraordinary comedy Thomas Otway was (a) hard up and (b) embittered at being disbanded from the 1678 Flanders campaign. The result was a play that begins as a hack moneymaking venture and then, amazingly, catches fire.

There is no suspicion of what is coming in the opening scenes. As usual there are two gallants (disbanded officers), two girls, one jealous old fool doubling as husband and guardian, and one elderly bisexual pimp, all buzzing round their respective honey-pots, and out-punning each other's verbal ejaculations.

Then, at half time, when all the parties are due to collide in a Feydeau hotel, the action abruptly comes to a halt: the two ex-officers, Beaupard and Courtine, sit over their drinks and cast their minds back to the lost paradise of camp life, and when the plot resumes they return to it as surviving wolves let loose on the mean pastures of civilian society.

Artificial comedy gives way to drunken assault and attempted murder. The erotic playground opens up into the squalor and danger of the London streets. And civilian

and military characters alike break out of their stereotypes. The pimp is shown to have his own code of honour. The deceived husband emerges as a treacherous villain, prompting the key line: "I never met a cuckold yet but was a false rogue in heart." And the girls do more than wait for the love to be made: the arrangements; when Courtine presents himself, drunk, under Sylvia's window, she leaves him dangling on a rope, and then, when he manages to break in, she ties him up and punts him through a scene of psychological torture.

It is not a neat play; but it could look a good deal better planned than it does in Sheila Hancock's Cambridge Theatre Company production, which gives the impression of being tied helplessly to a fast-moving vehicle. The first half, in spite of Hugh Padwick's deft exhibition of svelte lechery trundles a dead weight of misfiring gags and opaque narrative.

But when Otway picks up, so does the production. There is fine Jonsonian fun in the misfiring murder conspiracy, and the eruption of James Aubrey's Courtine as a fire-breathing brawler, putting Brian Murphy's trembling sword-stick aside with his campaign-seasoned blade, memorably fixes the moment when the masks fall away and life takes over.

Irving Wardle

Merry Happy Returns
"100 years old and still full of life"
Natural History Museum South Kensington

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

Stock Exchange Prices

Equities mark time

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Business News

THE TIMES Friday November 27 1981

Forecast of another five bleak years

By David Blake, Economics Editor

Britain faces another five years of stagnation and unemployment unless the Government changes its economic policies, according to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

The Institute, Britain's leading exponent of Keynesian thinking in economics, calls for reflation to end the deficit which has caused recession and which it thinks will keep unemployment rising steadily by 100,000 a year until 1986 unless action is taken.

In a five-year forecast of the British economy, the Institute paints a gloomy picture of growth of only 1.1 per cent a year between now and 1986 and adult unemployment rising to 3.6 million.

The country's total output would not get back to the levels of 1979 until 1986, and living standards would show hardly any rise. Inflation is expected to stick obstinately

at around 8 per cent in spite of the continued depression.

The Institute accepts the claim by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, that the fall in activity has ended. But it expects output next year to be only 0.6 per cent higher than its level in 1981 and the fastest growth forecast over the next five years is 2.1 per cent in 1984, after which the economy starts to slow down again.

The forecasts are drawn up on an assumption about future government policies which may be too restrictive.

In particular, it assumes that public spending next year will be held to the limits announced in the White Paper published in the spring, even though the Cabinet yesterday agreed to allow it to be higher. It also assumes that the world outlook over the next five years will be gloomy.

Public borrowing is assumed to be brought down sharply,

falling to only £2,000m by 1986 and growth in the money supply is brought down to 61 per cent by 1986.

The Institute expects there will be big and rising balance of payments surpluses as a result of this policy, with a current account surplus of £4,500m next year and an average surplus of £11,700m a year between 1984 and 1986.

The review rejects claims by defenders of the Government that the current unemployment level is caused by structural problems or by workers pricing themselves out of a job.

It says there is also no evidence to suggest that unemployment is caused largely by increases in social security benefits reducing the incentive to work.

The review raises the possibility of a more formal incomes policy to reduce inflation, but comes out firmly in favour of reflation in any event.

World growth, page 20

UEI in £53.3m electronics bid

By Simon Proctor

A publicly-quoted group for a number of high technology companies, United Engineering Industries, yesterday made a £53.3m agreed bid for Micro Consultants, a privately-run electronics company which has grown rapidly in the past four years.

The deal, which is being effected through the issue of 26 million new UEI shares, will double the size of UEI. The shares of UEI were suspended late yesterday on the stock market at 205p. The company has electronics interests and owns Cosworth the motor racing engine and components company.

Micro Consultants, founded 14 years ago by Peter Michael and Robert Graves, is based at

Newbury, Berkshire and Kenley, Surrey. It has two subsidiaries, both private companies, based in California. The whole group employs about 500 people.

It is almost wholly-owned by Mr Michael, 43, and Mr Graves, 51, who will own 18.7 million under the deal.

Micro Consultants originally designed and manufactured computer interfaces and military equipment such as radar systems. It has since expanded into turkey computer systems for customers like British Steel and Imperial Chemical Industries where computers are used for controlling production. It develops and markets television broadcast equipment through a subsidiary called Quantel.

The assets of Micro Consultants were £7.4m at the end of June and pretax profits for the group, including the American companies, were £3.6m. Profits before tax since 1977 of Micro Consultants United Kingdom operations alone grew from £326,000 to £2.9m by last June.

UEI made pretax profits of £3.2m in the year to last January. It employs about 1,000 people.

The relatively high price being paid by UEI for Micro Consultants reflects its involvement in high technology and rapid growth. Mr Michael, who owns 77 per cent of Micro Consultants, will become vice-chairman and joint managing director of UEI.

Price of petrol likely to stabilize

By Rupert Morris

Petrol prices are unlikely to rise by very much next year, Mr David Simon, BP Oil's director of marketing, hinted yesterday.

"I would not accept to see the same volatility in prices over the next year", said Mr Simon. He also revealed that BP was now operating at a profit on its petrol sales in spite of a failed attempt earlier this month to put prices up for the seventh time this year.

BP and the other big oil companies raised pump prices two weeks ago by up to 4p a gallon to about £17.2. But fierce competition persuaded BP to reintroduce discount to retailers of between 1.5p and 2p a gallon. The average price of a gallon of four-star was now about £16.9p, he said.

This price hike was followed by a steep rise in the value of the pound, from about \$1.83 to \$1.90, which instantly put most oil companies, including BP, back into profit on petrol sales.

"What has happened at the pumps has been a real decrease in price—good news for the consumer and bad news for our pricing strategy."

If the pound were to go much above \$1.90 further cuts in pump prices could be expected, he said. A one cent variation in the exchange rate affects the price of a gallon of petrol by 0.2p.

After half-year losses of £35m, British Petroleum is expected to show a substantial loss for 1981, but it hopes to be back in the black in 1982.

One reason for optimism is the Saudi Arabians' success in uniting the other members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) round the \$34 a barrel crude price, and the promise to freeze prices until the end of 1982.



Harvey-Jones: winner of race for ICI chair.

Harvey-Jones to lead ICI

By Ronald Pullen

Mr John Harvey-Jones will be the next chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's largest industrial group. He succeeds Sir Maurice Hodgson, who retires after four years at the end of the financial year.

Mr Harvey-Jones, 57, is one of ICI's three deputy chairmen and has been closely involved in the restructuring of the group, particularly the running-down of the loss-making fibres division over the last two years.

ICI has been hard hit by the recession, high interest rates and the strength of sterling, which culminated in more than halved profits in 1980 and its first dividend cut in 40 years.

However in the race for ICI's

chairmanship, one of the most important and influential jobs in British industry, Mr Harvey-Jones has been regarded as the outsider, with one of the other two deputy chairmen, Mr Bill Duncan and Mr Bob Haslam, considered to be the likely successor to the £135,000-a-year post.

Many felt that Mr Harvey-Jones was both too outspoken and too radical in his approach to the group's problems to suit ICI's style of management. But with many difficult decisions still to be taken, the ICI board has clearly decided that this is the time for the decisive leadership style.

Business Diary, page 21

£20m fight back from Courtaulds

By Margaret Pagano

Courtaulds, the country's biggest textiles company and a leading exporter, yesterday announced a boost in pretax profits to £20.5m in the six months to September compared with £2.5m last year.

This follows one of the company's worst trading periods when last year it reported a net loss of £11.4m and revealed it had cut its workforce by more than 20,000 employees in 18 months.

The results came at the top end of market forecasts which, together with a return to a half-time dividend of 1.42p a share, saw the group's shares pick up 3p to 69p. Profits after tax are £9.8m against a loss of £2.4m.

The improvement in the United Kingdom trading profit which rose to £1.1m against losses of £1.6m results from the group's action to close loss-making units.

Prices were virtually unchanged and the small gains in higher margins came from better productivity. Group sales in the period increased only marginally to £360.5m against £357.9m, his reflects a drop in turnover to United Kingdom customers to £388.8m compared with £414m, due entirely to a decline in volume. Sales overseas rose by £65m to £318m helped by the fall in sterling's value but exports fell significantly to £189m compared with £218m.

Courtauld's subsidiary, International Paints, increased its pretax profits by £4.7m to £16.5m on sales of £171m and a further improvement is expected over the second half of last year. The gross dividend is lifted more than doubled to 2.85p.

(Financial Editor, page 21.)

Pledge on control of BNOC

By Edward Townsend

Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, gave a clear indication last night that the control of the state-owned British National Oil Corporation, in which shares are to be offered to the private sector, would remain in British hands.

He emphasized the Government's view that there was no justification in concern that the BNOC's oil producing business, once it becomes privatised, could be controlled by foreign interests.

"Our intention is to set up a British oil company and our aim will be to achieve a wide spread of ownership among the public. Furthermore, we have given an undertaking that the articles of association of the company in which shares are to be sold will contain safeguards against unacceptable changes in control."

Mr Lawson, addressing the London Committee of the Scottish Chartered Accountants, did not specify what he would regard as unacceptable, but he stressed that the North Sea oil fields "are British and will remain British."

Price chaos on the tin market

London's tin market was thrown into disarray yesterday by heavy buying of spot metal which entirely eliminated the previous day's £263 premium for three-month tin. Spot and three-month tin ended the day at £8,557.50 a tonne, a rise of £220 for spot and a fall of £93 for three-month tin.

The price of three-month tin collapsed in just 10 minutes of hectic morning trading. Market sources said that the same fund which spent more than £100m during the summer pushing up the tin price to some £200 above what consumers consider to be a fair price, was behind the purchases of spot metal.

But the motives of the fund, which is believed to be acting in the interests of tin producers led by Malaysia, baffled many traders. One theory was that in recent weeks the contango—the premium of forward over spot—had been widened. By purchasing spot tin the holders of long forward positions were covering their risks.

The operation could have developed into a classic squeeze, with the fund cornering the tin, thereby invoking intervention by the London Metal Exchange authorities. This was avoided by changing tack in the afternoon and buying forward tin again.

One experienced commodity trader said: "It was very expensive to produce tin over the weekend behind the operation." It was pointed out that if the buyers of tin, who purchased 8,000 tonnes on Tuesday alone, could force up the price every three months they eliminated the risk of carrying forward contracts.

French industry chief will quit over nationalization

From Michael Parrott, Paris, Nov 26

One of the captains of French industry is to leave the chairmanship of his company at the moment it is nationalized.

M. Ambroise Roux, aged 60, chairman of the powerful conglomerate Compagnie Générale d'Electricité (CGE) is the first head of a group to be nationalized to announce his intention of leaving. "My attachment to the spirit of capitalism and free economy have dictated my decision," he told the company's board.



Roux: A force to be reckoned with.

Since he became chairman of CGE in 1970, he has almost symbolized the power of the French business establishment. On particularly good terms with President Georges Pompidou, he remained a force to be reckoned with under M. Pompidou's successor, M. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. But since the socialists came to power he has not concealed his strong opposition to their nationalization programme.

M. Roux will be remembered for his political manoeuvring in the industrial field after his company lost its monopoly in

the telephone business to Thomson-Brandt. The group moved into the main frame computer business (CII-Honeywell Bull) only to pull out again and concentrate on mini-computers and office automation equipment.

After failing to win a stake in the nuclear reactor business, he secured the monopoly of nuclear turbine orders for the subsidiary Alsthom Atlantique.

Lloyd's rift widens after committee member resigns

By Peter Wilson-Smith

The latest row at Lloyd's, the London insurance market, after the resignation of Mr Robert Kiln from the ruling committee, looks certain to precipitate the first by-election to elect a new committee member. It will also add to the divisions at Lloyd's which have been deepened by controversy in recent years over the question of self-regulation and the role of the committee.



Kiln: "Knifed in the back."

Mr Ian Fosgate, the outspoken underwriter who has championed the "diversity" clause in the Lloyd's Bill now before Parliament, and narrowly failed to win election to the committee earlier this month, has confirmed he will stand, although he was sure he would not be elected.

Mr Kiln, one of the most senior members of the committee, resigned because he was not elected a deputy chairman as he had expected.

He said yesterday that he was disappointed and felt let down by the "diversity" clause in the Lloyd's Bill now before Parliament, and that he had been "knifed in the back." Mr Kiln was adamant that he had been given no formal un-

derstanding and no promises were broken, but he stood for a third term of office, he said, on the basis of certain expectations and it only became clear that the clause was likely to be fulfilled.

"The way in which this has been done leads me to feel that all is not well in the way the committee of Lloyd's conducts its affairs. There have been other occasions when similar shenanigans have raised my doubts," Mr Kiln said yesterday.

Japan agrees to limit car exports for another year

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Japan's motor industry has agreed to another year of voluntary restraint on the British market which should limit its share of car and commercial vehicle sales to about 11 per cent.

The agreement was reached during three days of talks between leaders of the two countries' industries, and while it will be welcomed by the Government it could generate further protests from British-owned importing companies. They have complained bitterly in recent years that there has been unfair discrimination against Japanese vehicles.

The terms of the agreement, which are being discussed by the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers' Association, led by Mr Takashi Ishihara the president, with a new set of forecasts for the United Kingdom market for 1982. These expect a rise in car sales from 1.48 million this year to between 1.52 million and 1.55 million and in light vehicles sales from 165,000 this year to 170,000-175,000.

Japan's car production is likely to reach 11.18 million this year, which means it will remain the world's biggest car producer.

Since July, however, when the SMMT made strong representations to the Japanese, van shipments to Britain have fallen significantly. Japan has agreed to further action to prevent a rise in shipments next year. Mr Geoffrey Moore, the SMMT president, said that stocks of Japanese vans had been reduced substantially in recent months and as a result of the talks he did not expect a sales boom.

The SMMT presented the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers' Association, led by Mr Takashi Ishihara the president, with a new set of forecasts for the United Kingdom market for 1982. These expect a rise in car sales from 1.48 million this year to between 1.52 million and 1.55 million and in light vehicles sales from 165,000 this year to 170,000-175,000.

Stock Markets
FT Index 526.1 up 0.1
FT 100 64.36 down 0.34
FT All Share 310.80 up 0.39
Bargains 17,901

Sterling
\$ 1.9395 up 85 points
Index 91.3 up 0.1

Dollar
Index 105.6 unchanged
DM 2.2242 down 40 pts

Gold
\$ 409.50 down 75 cents

Money
3 mth sterling 13.141
3 mth Euro 5 111.124
6 mth Euro 5 112.124

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Amstrad	12p to 340p
Bentley Exp	3p to 233p
Carnegie W	5p to 54p
Grindlay Hldgs	12p to 205p
Int Paints	10p to 202p
Martin RF	10p to 305p
Mount Lyall	10p to 290p
Peko Wallace	29p to 343p
Newman Tools	10p to 281p
Rio Tinto Zinc	4p to 463p
Standard Chart	12p to 202p
Tesco	21p to 39p
Tungel R	10p to 215p
Un Scientific	10p to 435p
TV Ward	8p to 195p

Falls

Atlantic Rec	10p to 22p
RAT Ind	7p to 341p
Carless Capel	3p to 143p
GI Petroleum	6p to 190p
Harrison Cros	13p to 762p
Health CE	10p to 295p
Johnson Malt	10p to 281p
Malaysian Tin	4p to 361p
Mercantile Etc	5p to 424p
Pearl	5p to 240p
Plessey	5p to 34p
Poly Peck	2p to 38p
Reed Exec	2p to 77p
Rothmans Int B	4p to 396p
Shell Trans	4p to 396p

341 jobs to go at GKN

GKN-Sanket, the engineering company, is to make another 341 employees redundant at its plant in Telford, Shropshire, where unemployment is running at 21 per cent.

Hopes for increased sales in 1982 have been dashed by the latest forecasts, and in spite of introducing the Government's temporary short-time working scheme in July the company said it now had no option but to make 290 manual and 61 staff employees redundant.

New offer at Robb Caledon

British Shipbuilders has made a new proposal to try to settle the Robb Caledon yard sit-in, according to a union leader. About 90 men have been occupying the Dundee shipyard for six weeks since the corporation closed it.

Mr Jim Murray, leader of the Boilermakers' Society, said: "We received an offer from BS last night on what they anticipate might settle the issue."

Hongkong bank opens books

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, whose bid for the Royal Bank of Scotland is being studied by the Monopolies Commission with the rival bid from Standard Chartered, has said it will open its books for inspection by the United Kingdom authorities. In a booklet being circulated to all government ministers, MPs and Scottish institutions, the Hongkong bank argues the logic of its bid and seeks to allay objections of the Bank of England.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Ward fights off RTZ with improved profits

Thomas W. Ward, the Sheffield cement group which is the subject of a £91m takeover bid from Rio Tinto-Zinc, has fought off publication of improved full year results in an attempt to discourage shareholders from selling in the market to the mining group. Pre-tax profits in the year to September 30 rose 15.3 per cent to £18.04m.

RTZ may buy further Ward shares today now that the seven day cooling off period required by the new takeover rules after dawn raids, has elapsed. RTZ which controls 14.9 per cent of Ward after a raid last week may now offer buy shares at more than 10p a share.

Yesterday the shares of all three companies rose sharply

because of rumours that Tuncel Holdings, in which Ward has 42 per cent stake and for which RTZ is prepared to make a full bid, would be sold.

There was also speculation that RTZ itself might be the target of a similar operation by a oil company.

Ward shares closed at 196p, up 3p on the previous day. Tuncel rose 10p to 515p and RTZ 15p to 469p.

Sell, mentioned as a possible bidder for RTZ, fell 4p to 39p.

Mr Peter Frost, Ward's chairman, says that RTZ's bid is inadequate in regard to the company's expected future performance and that it undermines Ward's stake in Tuncel.

EEC directive attacked

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, told a Conservative conference in London yesterday that the European Community directive on worker participation in companies was being opposed by the Government because it did not recognize the differences which existed in labour relations in the United Kingdom compared with some European countries.

"I doubt if we will for a

long time yet resolve the differences between the Napoleonic tradition and the interventionist philosophy of some member states and the free market attitudes of others," he said.

This became particularly difficult when directives were suggested calling for the regulation of matters which were resolved here by independent bargaining, he added.

TODAY

October figures (final) for car and commercial vehicle production. Company results: Hallam Group. Howard Tenens Services and Rediffusion.

Selling its sole

The soaring price of Dover sole is the main cause of a drop in profits of Wheeler's Restaurants. This time last year it cost £1.90 a pound at Billingsgate. Today, at £2.60, Wheeler is finding it hard to push the fish on to a dwindling number of customers and profits for the six months to October 2 last dropped 27 per cent to £12,942.

During that time, Wheeler's sold fish worth about £3m, virtually the same as last year, but its 14 restaurants had more empty seats, and with more than half its customers ordering less as a main course, made less profit.

In the hope that sole will be cheaper soon, Wheeler's is paying an unchanged gross half rate dividend of 2.2142p a share.

French nuclear programme

The French Government has adopted virtually the same nuclear programme for 1982 and 1983—after six months of vacillation—as that laid down by its predecessors. Work will start on only five plants instead of the nine originally planned, but they will be built on the same sites at Chinon 4, Cattenom 3, Chooz 1, Golfech 1, Nogent 2 and Peulay 1.

The plants to be dropped are Cattenom 4, Chooz 2 and Golfech 2, reducing the total capacity on which work is to be started to 7,400 megawatts from 11,300.

Under the Socialist plan presented at the beginning of this year, work was to have been suspended on five of these sites.

Ferry fares to rise

Channel ferry fares are likely to rise between 12 per cent and 25 per cent next year, signalling an end to a two-year cut-price battle among the ferry operators. Mr David Benson, marketing director of P & O, said that cut-price tariffs were the ones where the highest increases would be seen.

Thomson Holidays and Thomson Cook, two of Britain's biggest package-holiday travel organisations, are to move from experimental trials to large-scale computerized booking of holidays at high street outlets; Thomson is spending £2m on expanding its system.

The decision marks the start of a battle among the big tour operators to eliminate delays at peak times caused by agents booking holidays by telephone.

Spending study on building

Increased public expenditure on the building of houses and other projects would give the Government a better value for money—among five economic options, according to a study published today. Policies for Recovery, examines a number of options open to the Government and their benefits to the economy. It was sponsored by the five leading building groups and undertaken by Cambridge Economic Research Associates.

The study looked at the effects of £500m being spent in turn on tax reductions, employment subsidies, expenditure expansion and capital investment programmes in housebuilding and roads and sewers and found that it was best spent on building projects.

(Free translation of the official French text)

UNION MINIERE

Société Anonyme
Régistrée au Doyenné de la Chancellerie à Bruxelles
Régistre des entreprises au 13.777

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Owing to the expiry of shares represented, the Extraordinary General Meeting of shareholders called on November 24th, 1981, could not be held. Consequently, a second Extraordinary General Meeting will be held on Wednesday December 9th, 1981, at 2.00 p.m. in the Board Room, 11, rue de la Loi, 1150 Brussels, in order to deliberate on the same agenda, as given hereafter:

AGENDA

- Report of the Board of Directors explaining the situation for the company of the hereafter proposed operations and report of the legal Auditor on the transfers to be made in execution of these operations.
- Amendment of the articles of association of the company. Nomination of the liquidators and fixing of their emoluments.
- Dissolution of the liquidators.

a) Amendment of the articles of association of the company to a new "société anonyme", to be incorporated under the name of "Union Minière" with a capital of 10,000 millions Belgian francs, represented by 1,000,000 shares without par value, on the basis of the company's financial statements of 31st August 1981. All questions connected with the present company since that date until the date upon which the transfer will be effective, without the limits of the above-mentioned branch of activities, will be deemed to be the business of the new company. The new company will be deemed to be the successor of the present company, with all its assets and liabilities, and the transfer of the company's business will be deemed to be the business of the new company. The new company will be deemed to be the successor of the present company, with all its assets and liabilities, and the transfer of the company's business will be deemed to be the business of the new company.

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m) Amendment of the articles of association of the company to a new "société anonyme", to be incorporated under the name

North Sea clean-up operation by Bayer

By Tony Samstag

Bayer AG, long blamed for polluting the Rhine, the Elbe and the North Sea, has launched a clean-up operation. Four of the company's West German production sites have been visited by Ends magazine, the journal of Environmental Data Services and representative of the conservation groups Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, to check on progress.

The company gained a certain notoriety over pollution last year when Greenpeace launched a protest over the dumping of 55,000 tonnes of acid waste into the North Sea.

Although the Dutch minister for transport and waterways had permitted the dumping, Greenpeace argued that he was acting illegally under the Oslo Convention. Quantities of lead, copper, mercury and cadmium were involved in excess of the "trace quantities" allowed.

Ends visited plants at Leverkusen, Dornagen, Elberfeld and Brunsbüttel. Leverkusen, the biggest site, comprises 100 separate plants producing about 500,000 tonnes a year of "solid, paste-like, slip-like and liquid wastes", 80 per cent of those as non-combustible solids. The magazine concludes that a complex of controlled landfill sites, incinerators and "tower biology" treatment plants gave some credence to the company's statements over pollution.

Ends' Environmental Data Services report 82: November 1981. Orchard House, 14 Great Smith Street, London SW1.



The last delivery of Metros leaving Longbridge before the production line stopped

'Teabreak' strike threat to BL sales

By Clifford Webb, Midlands Industrial Correspondent

The "teabreak" strike at BL's Longbridge plant, over working hours and break time, is now approaching the end of its third week and, with production of the company's best selling Metro at a standstill, is now threatening to cause further disruption to the group's recovery plans.

Some union leaders have expressed surprise at the low key approach to the dispute adopted so far by Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, and other senior executives. Others have interpreted this as indicating that Sir Michael has been chastened by the strike which followed his last intervention and the company's narrow escape from closure after his threat to dismiss men on strike against his 3.8 per cent wage offer and to put the factories into liquidation.

But more pragmatic observers suggest a different reason. They believe that while he did not welcome the strike at Longbridge, Sir

Michael has taken advantage of it to reduce stocks of unsold cars which would otherwise have accumulated during the traditionally depressed selling months of November and December.

This view is supported by reports from BL dealers that the strike has not affected their stock position unduly. Many of them are still advertising a number of Longbridge models including the Metro for immediate delivery.

Dealers are however worried by the effect of yet another strike on the company's image. Mr Maurice Baylis, marketing director of the Henley group, said: "We have just had the confrontation over the wages issue and here we go again. It is all very disconcerting for the motorist who is contemplating buying BL. It is enough to stop some of them crossing the threshold of the local BP showroom."

But after the collapse on

Wednesday of the latest peace talks, a more serious threat to BL's future is looming. New car sales in Britain are dominated by the two months of January and August. Motorists place their year-end orders for delivery in January to obtain the new year registration or take advantage of the August new model year registration suffix.

Last year the two months accounted for nearly 400,000 sales, or one quarter of all the cars sold during 1980.

The industry is forecasting that next January will be one of the best on record with more than 200,000 sales. If BL is to take advantage of this it must have adequate stocks of the Metro in its biggest selling model. It is looking to the Longbridge car to take between 8 and 9 per cent of the market in January market. To do that it must have at least 16,000 in its showrooms.

If the strikers return

tomorrow BL will be pushed to achieve this. Metro production before the strike was nearly 4,700 a week with both assembly tracks working flat out. With Christmas holidays to be taken into account, there are only three working weeks remaining during which only 14,000 Metros could be made.

Another problem now becoming acute is the need to meet customers' choice in colour, engine-size and trim. Dealers are already meeting customer resistance to the limited range of cars in their showrooms. One BL dealer said: "The factory should now be filling the orders for specific models for delivery in January. If we get a return to work immediately I doubt whether we shall be able to offer customers what they want without quoting unsuitable delivery times. And in a market where delivery from stock is now an everyday occurrence, motorists will no longer accept this."

Slow world economic growth predicted

By Frances Williams

The industrialised world is likely to suffer sluggish economic growth and continuing high inflation and unemployment over the next five years, according to new forecasts in the November issue of the *National Institute Economic Review* published yesterday.

The institute blames continued restrictive policies to combat inflation, worsening terms of trade and, at least in the short term, the impact of high American interest rates.

It also claims that tight money policies have inhibited technical and industrial change by exacerbating pressures for greater trade protection. This will prolong recession, the institute says.

Economic growth in industrial countries is forecast to accelerate slowly from 1.3 per cent this year to 1.8 per cent in 1982, 2.8 per cent in 1983 and an average of 2.9 per cent over the three years 1983-86.

This compares with average yearly growth rates of 2.7 per cent between 1973 and 1979 and 5.0 per cent between 1967 and 1973, before the first oil price shock.

Although the institute expects Western nations to continue to make inflation their first economic priority, it predicts only a gradual decline from an average of 10.4 per cent in 1981, to 9 per cent in 1982, 8 per cent in 1983 and 7 to 7 1/2 per cent over the 1983-86 period.

"The relatively high levels of unemployment now in prospect must be expected to have some impact on wage negotiations and hence on the inflationary spiral", the review says.

The institute expects oil prices to boost inflation only slightly, although it is less sanguine on the longer term outlook than some other analysts.

It predicts that the real oil price will fall by about 2 1/2 per cent next year, following the recent Opec decision to freeze prices in dollar terms to the end of 1982. After that it forecasts real price rises of 4 per cent a year or so.

Trade is expected to grow more rapidly over the next few years as the world recovers from recession, particularly trade in manufactures. But trade in primary commodities (other than oil which is assumed to remain roughly constant) is likely to be depressed by slow growth in the industrial countries.

The institute foresees world trade growth rising from a depressed 1 per cent in 1981 to 4 per cent next year and in 1983 to 1986, with the possibility of 5 per cent growth in 1983. For manufactures the growth rates could be up to 1 per cent higher.

The oil producers' smaller surpluses are expected to be balanced mainly by the deficits on non-oil developing countries.

The institute is particularly critical of United States policy which it believes is likely to produce "significantly positive" real interest rates for the next few years.

This poses a new problem in international economic relations, and there are no international or national policy instruments to deal with it, the review adds. For the same reason, "there are no generally accepted limits on a country's behaviour".

Technology Locking out the computer spy

The most controversial published "algorithm" in the field of academic research in the United States at the moment is cryptography — the making and breaking of codes. The National Security Agency (NSA), the agency responsible for monitoring worldwide communications for the United States Government and armed forces, is fighting hard to keep the subject under its control.

In flagrant violation of the hallowed American tradition of academic freedom, it wants to prevent scientists telling the world how to produce an unbreakable code.

Implications of the controversy this has caused stretch far beyond American academia and the electronic eavesdroppers of the NSA.

Its outcome will affect the security of the rapidly growing volume of sensitive information stored in computers and/or transmitted over the world's telecommunications networks. The question is how data can be scrambled electronically into a code which the most sophisticated criminal or commercial spy will be unable to break.

Public debate

This issue has received surprisingly little attention in Britain. Here the long public debate over computer privacy has concentrated on questions such as who should have access to the files and how to protect individuals from misuse of the information held about them.

When security has been discussed, the question has been who should be responsible for it — not the more fundamental issue of how to protect electronic data.

However, the increasing incidence of computer crime may soon force British computer users to face up to the challenge of cryptography as seriously as their American counterparts.

There are no reliable statistics for computer fraud and theft of unauthorized access to electronic data, because such crimes frequently go unreported, if not undetected.

Corporate victims of computer crime are notoriously unwilling to reveal themselves, for fear of inflaming their customers' suspicions of computers. Worldwide losses from computer related crime could exceed £1,000m a year, according to one estimate.

Last month a group of Lloyds' underwriters announced a new insurance scheme to protect financial institutions against computer and telecommunications fraud. They expect to receive at least £5m in premiums within a year.

Allegations

At the moment the only internationally accepted standard for electronic coding is the Data Encryption Standard (DES), developed in the United States by IBM and published by the National Bureau of Standards in 1977.

Unfortunately, the reputation of DES, as it is known in the trade, has been tainted by the fact that the National Security Agency was involved behind the scenes in its establishment.

There have been frequent allegations — never confirmed, never refuted — that the NSA persuaded IBM to make DES less secure than the corporation originally wanted, so that the agency, own computers could decipher the messages of any of anyone using the standard.

At the heart of DES is the

extremely complicated series of 16 mathematical operations written into the electronic hardware of the encryption device. They scramble data into code and back again, according to a secret key known only to the sender and receiver.

The key is a mathematical variable with 56 "bits" (binary digits). The system is comparable to combination lock of which the overall structure (the algorithm) is public knowledge. Only the user knows the correct combination of numbers (key) to open it.

American critics of DES have pointed out two distinct ways in which it might be vulnerable to code breakers.

First, they could attack it by brute force — trying every combination of 56 digits until they found the correct key. According to one estimate, a special electronic chip could be built to try out a million combinations a second.

If one million such chips were run together, they could complete the search in a day. A code breaking computer with that power would probably cost at least £10m today, but as the price of chips tumbles, it could become a realistic proposition in the future.

IBM had originally proposed a 128-bit key, which really would be unbreakable by brute force for the foreseeable future, but the NSA reportedly made sure that DES ended up with only 56 bits.

The second, more worrying possibility is that the DES algorithm contains an inherent mathematical weakness which could be deliberately exploited by the NSA — which code breakers could use to find the key without having to try all combinations. However, American university researchers have spent years trying to find a flaw in the algorithm without success.

Built-in flaw

Mr Bob Gerson, products manager of Rascal-Milpo, whose company launched a new DES-based data encryption device in Britain last week, says he does not know whether the American authorities have deliberately built a flaw into the algorithm.

But he adds: "There's a general underlying feeling that the National Bureau of Standards has something up its sleeve". That need not worry the general commercial users for whom Rascal's Datacryptor II is designed, according to Mr Gerson.

Recently, however, American university researchers have proposed novel approaches to cryptography which seem to offer far greater security than DES, at less cost. One is the so-called public key approach, in which the sender can encode a message but not decipher it, while the receiver can decipher but not encode.

The technique is based on abstract mathematical processes — which are easy to perform in one direction and almost impossible to reverse. For example, multiplying two large numbers to make a third number is simple, but the original factors cannot readily be obtained from their product.

The NSA has responded to this sort of work with a mixture of blandishments (including promises of generous research grants if the recipient co-operates with the agency) and threats and harassment (attempts to slap on secrecy orders).

Clive Cookson

IN BRIEF

EEC plea on textile imports

Additional restrictions on some categories of textiles imports by the European Community are essential in order to "reflect today's realities", Mr Horst-Günter Krenzler, EEC representative, said yesterday in the 50-nation negotiations for a renewal of the Multi Fibre Arrangement in Geneva.

He said textiles from low-cost manufacturing countries in the Third World now comprise 70 per cent of the Community's imports in this field.

Their penetration in the EEC had risen from 28.5 per cent in 1977 to 31.5 per cent in 1980. The Community tabled its proposals in the form of a draft protocol of extension to the MFA.

Cheaper oil products

Consumer prices for oil products sold inside the European Community dropped in mid-November. The increase in consumer prices from December 1978 to the week ending November 16 fell to 104 per cent from 106 per cent the week before.

Aluminium plant hit

A complete power supply breakdown caused by Tuesday's violent North Sea storm has forced at least a two-month production halt at Norsk Hydro's Karmøy aluminium plant, Norway's leading industrial concern reported.

UNILEVER NV.
Rotterdam, The Netherlands
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
followed by a
MEETING OF ORDINARY SHAREHOLDERS
On Friday 27th November 1981 at 9.30 a.m. in the Company's Office, Burgemeester van Nieuwland 1, Rotterdam.

AGENDA FOR EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- Proposed by the Board of Directors to amend the agreement (the "Equalisation Agreement") entered into in Article 2 of the Articles of Association, between Unilever NV and Unilever PLC (formerly called Unilever Limited).
- Proposed by the Board of Directors to amend Article 2 of the Articles of Association.

AGENDA FOR ORDINARY SHAREHOLDERS MEETING

If the General Meeting of Shareholders approves the proposal under item 1 above, the only item on the agenda is:

Proposed by the Board of Directors to approve the resolution passed by the preceding General Meeting of Shareholders to amend the Equalisation Agreement.

These general and explanatory notes regarding the proposals referred to above are available for inspection by shareholders and holders of certificates issued by NV Nederlandse Afdeling Administratie van Trustfondsen (NVATA) at the Company's office or at the office of the Midland Bank Limited, Marine House, Poultry Square, London EC2M 6DA or any of its branches mentioned below, where copies may be obtained free of charge.

- Holders of bearer shares or sub-shares wishing to attend the meeting either in person or by proxy should deposit their shares and sub-shares certificates with Midland Bank Limited, Marine House, Poultry Square, London EC2M 6DA or any of its branches mentioned below, at the latest by Friday, 27th November 1981, at 4.00 p.m. Upon production of the receipt then issued to them such sub-shares certificates will be admitted to the meeting.
- Holders of registered shares for which certificates have been issued in another form and holders of bearer shares wishing to attend the meeting either in person or by proxy should deposit their shares and sub-shares certificates with Midland Bank Limited, Marine House, Poultry Square, London EC2M 6DA or any of its branches mentioned below, at the latest by Friday, 27th November 1981, at 4.00 p.m. Upon production of the receipt then issued to them such sub-shares certificates will be admitted to the meeting.
- Holders of certificates for shares in Unilever NV, issued by NV Nederlandse Afdeling Administratie van Trustfondsen (NVATA), wishing to attend the meeting should deposit their shares and sub-shares certificates with Midland Bank Limited, Marine House, Poultry Square, London EC2M 6DA or any of its branches mentioned below, at the latest by Friday, 27th November 1981, at 4.00 p.m. Upon production of the receipt then issued to them such sub-shares certificates will be admitted to the meeting.
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The receipt issued by Midland Bank Limited for sub-shares certificates so deposited is not valid for the purpose of voting at the meeting.

Rotterdam, 27th November 1981.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARTINI

A cut above the rest.

Only a very special lemon deserves Martini. Only a lemon which can add something extra to that unique blend of the choicest wines and herbs. In short, only a lemon with a little more sparkle.

MARTINI

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Courtaulds still facing a long haul

The market has been shooting in the dark with attempts to forecast Courtaulds' profitability this year after last year's net loss of £114m. In the event, pre-tax profits of £20.5m in the six months to September, compared with £2.3m last time, was at the top end of expectations.

But, tempting as it may be to see Courtaulds on the road to progressive recovery, the fact is that UK and European demand has not significantly changed over the last year. In the UK, then, it is largely a tale of cost saving benefits from the radical surgery and rationalization of the past couple of years. Although there is a trading profit of £1.1m against a loss of £1.6m last year, the fabric division remains in loss and a sales figure of £388m includes a 12 per cent volume fall.

The fibres and yarns division, although still loss-making, should be profitable by the year end and further increases in profits from consumer products are expected despite the fierce price-cutting in the clothing retailing trade. Overseas profits have again risen, by £5m to £28m, helped by higher earnings again from South Africa, and a £2.5m on exchange rate gains. International Paints has boosted its pre-tax profits to £16.5m and will also improve over last year's second half.

Given that seasonal factors do not generally have that much effect, Courtaulds could make about £45m in the full year assuming there is no great change in sterling value. The return to a 1p net dividend came as some surprise, but on this basis the full year dividend could be 2.5p, where, at yesterday's 69p share price, the yield would be 5.1 per cent.

Dawn raids

Longer cool-off period needed

Today, the working committee of the Council for the Securities Industry starts to reexamine its rules on "dawn raids" in time for full Council approval in January. The seven day cooling-off period after a dawn raid formulated as an interim measure in September is the main topic on the agenda along with the more complex question of irrevocable acceptances to a bid.

On the first issue, the committee should extend the breathing space. A week is insufficient time to bring a full board together to discuss the bid, inform shareholders and employees and prepare a detailed defence. If the price of a longer-time span is the development of an arbitrage market with investors selling out to professionals seeking a quick gain, then this must be the price payable for a free market in shares.

Much more important, is the recognition that there should not be a totally unfettered market in the purchase and sale of companies. The interests of all shareholders, employees and maybe an important industrial sector, must take priority over the short-term demands of the share price. By extending the cool-off period, the Council would only be formally enshrining the spirit of the Takeover Code and help restore the image of the City which has been tarnished by recent market operations.

Thomas W. Ward Attempted defence

Thomas Ward hurried forward its latest full year figures to encourage its shareholders to reject RTZ's takeover bid. Profits at the pretax level show an increase of 15 per cent to £18m, but trading profits are down from £12.4m to

£10.2m and sales are 11 per cent lower at £232m.

Peter Frost, the chairman, stresses that the underlying trend in the group's non-cement side, is one of improvement however, with this year's second half being much better than last year's second half. Hence the 20 per cent increase in the dividend.

On the basis of these latest figures, RTZ's bid is eight times earnings per share, but that still looks generous in the circumstances. Tunnel, on the other hand, has reported a 39 per cent increase in sales and a 16 per cent increase in profits which has a better look of quality about it. This adds credence to arguments that Tunnel may be RTZ's ultimate target and the real horse trading has yet to begin.

Anglo American

A slowdown in growth

After several very good years riding on the back of the gold price, Anglo American seems to be slowing down. True, the first six months pretax profits are £42.4m higher at £334m, but most of the increase came from Amcoal rather than gold mine dividends. Moreover, Anglo owns 51 per cent of Amcoal whose income is taxed, unlike the mine dividends. As a result, the tax charge has soared from £12.6m to £45.4m, leaving after-tax profits at £289m compared with £279m.

Amcoal also brings with it the obligation to the other 49 per cent of its shareholders. Outside shareholders have absorbed £50.9m against £16.2m last year, so that after including £152m (almost unchanged) as the share of retained profits from associated companies, attributable profits are down from £418m to £387m. Retained profits from associations are in fact taken to reserve, so earnings per share excluding retained profits fell from 115 cents to 104 cents.

Faced with this combination, shareholders might be better off investing directly in gold mines rather than going through Anglo, whose profits are likely to suffer further from a weak diamond market. For the first time since 1976 Anglo could be heading for a maintained dividend. The first half was held at 35 cents and last years full payout was 110 cents. But the shares rose 4p to 68p, reflecting some relief that the figures were not worse and that earnings per share and dividend cover have not been too diluted by the larger number of shares in issue.

Unilever's long-awaited proposals for paying different dividends to shareholders in The Netherlands and the United Kingdom, are to go for shareholder approval at meetings of Unilever PLC, the UK end, and of Unilever NV, the Dutch side, on December 18. They affect a fundamental aspect of Unilever's constitution known as the Equalisation Agreement. The agreement was designed years ago to allow for equal treatment of the shareholders of the two arms of the company when it came to paying dividends. But in recent years, and especially earlier this year, it has been very difficult to operate equitably given sharp exchange rate movements, different rates of inflation in the two countries and the presence or absence of dividend restraint in one or other of the states. The proposed changes are such that the boards of both companies will have the power to declare differential dividends and establish equalisation and/or deferred dividend reserves should circumstances dictate. However, such a course of action, as the document makes clear, will only be used in extreme circumstances and would be rare.

Business Diary: New catalyst at ICI

Imperial Chemical Industries has thrown caution to the wind in electing John Harvey-Jones as chairman in succession to Sir Maurice Hodgson.

Given the way he speaks his mind both inside and outside the group's Millbank headquarters you could hardly call him the dark horse in the race between the three deputy chairmen which has been running for some months. Nevertheless, Harvey-Jones was generally reckoned to be the outsider. For one thing, from his slightly wild hair style to his rather unconventional way of doing things, he does not fit the Civil Service mould from which ICI likes to choose its top brass. More importantly, he is well-known for the radical solutions he favours for ICI's problems in the 1980s, solutions for which ICI's committee-style of decision taking is not best suited.

But the ICI board, where Hodgson and Hawker Siddeley chief Sir Arnold Hall are thought to have been the decisive voices, has decided that Harvey-Jones is the right man to steer ICI through the difficult waters ahead.

Of the other two runners, Bill Duncan would have been the easiest choice but he was passed over last time in favour of Sir Maurice. And Bob Haslam, the third deputy chairman, could be said to lack the decisive leadership qualities that Harvey-Jones has shown recently in dealing with the problems of the fibres and petrochemical and plastics divisions with which he has been most closely associated.

Whatever feathers the appointment will ruffle inside ICI, it was quickly welcomed



New top man Harvey-Jones (top left) takes over in April from Sir Maurice Hodgson (top right). Duncan (bottom left) and Haslam fell at the last fence.

outside. Many City people felt Harvey-Jones would be just the sort of chairman who could be a catalyst for change. Even within ICI he is widely regarded as the most approachable of the top directors and among divisional chairmen he has been like a breath of fresh air for the way he says what he thinks. Many of the divisional heads have felt for some time that what ICI lacks is tough leadership and the courage to take difficult decisions, and that for too long it has relied on its manufacturing strengths at the expense of developing the market skills its European and American competitors have capitalized on. Harvey-Jones has followed

an unconventional path to the top. But he has moved up through the ranks, by ICI standards, at lightning pace. Born in 1924 and educated at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, he served in the Navy for almost 20 years with stints in submarines and then naval intelligence. He joined ICI in 1956 and for several years was involved in work study in London and Teesside. His road to the top started in 1967 when he became a director of the heavy organic chemicals division (now the petrochemicals and plastics division), becoming chairman three years later. He joined the ICI main board in 1973, holding various appointments including the American operation, and became one of the

three deputy chairmen in 1978.

For the last couple of years Harvey-Jones has been closely associated with the group restructuring. Sir Maurice has been pushing through, and in particular the plant closures on the loss-making fibres side. Here he has been credited with taking harsh decisions on plant closures rather more speedily than is usually the case in ICI.

He is also thought to have been one of the directors who pushed hard for the decision to cut the group's dividend for the first time in 40 years in 1980.

Harvey-Jones is keeping his head down before taking up the £135,000 a year post next April. But it is already fairly clear which directions he plans to develop in his four years as chairman. He is not happy with the top heavy structure at Millbank and further decentralization to the divisions is expected to be one of his first priorities.

Sir Maurice has started the ball rolling in cutting back capacity in low value added areas. ICI has bitten the bullet on fibres and many believe Harvey-Jones will move in on the plastics and petrochemical division where there have been heavy redundancies already.

The corollary of this is that, as Dow Chemical has so successfully done, ICI may move further away from bulk chemicals into specialist areas. There is also the feeling within Millbank that under Harvey-Jones ICI may spread its geographical wings away from its dependence on the UK and exporting where it is at the mercy of currency swings.

Ronald Pullen



Anthony Burgess (above) and his "Earthly Powers" which has given publishers Penguin Books their first taste of television promotion.



The selling of Anthony Burgess

Anthony Burgess is a shy man, easily embarrassed by publicity. It is an interesting irony then that he — or rather his latest work *Earthly Powers* — should be chosen by Penguin Books for its first paperback launch in this country by television advertising.

Burgess is in Monaco, well outside ITV's transmission area, so has not seen the commercial. It seemed more than a little relieved to be told that the advertisement — a visually arresting sequence in which a mysterious crucified wooden figure dissolves in fire to become a skull — was cleverly done.

He may shrink from publicity, but does not revere it. Indeed, he has a healthy pounds, shillings and pence approach towards its powers. "One has to judge it in terms of sales and whether it sells by the screen. I do think it's an excellent idea and a break for publishers and books," he says.

"I hear that sales are not doing too badly..." And sales are doing rather well. Last week's list of top 10 best sellers saw *Earthly Powers* rise to number eight from tenth position. Indications are that the novel is about to sell out its first print run of 80,000 and could reach the 100,000 mark by Christmas.

Television air time is not cheap and fine literature often sinks without trace in commercial terms, so Penguin was taking a risk. But it appears to have demonstrated that an imaginative visual image can be extremely cost-effective in any way vulgarising the book's content.

Penguin's strategy, says Mr James Lake, head of promotions, was for a simple, low-cost commercial which he calls a toe-in-the-water experiment.

The advertising budget for *Earthly Powers* was £15,000. Mr Lake is reluctant to say how much it cost to produce the advertisement (which was shown eight times in all) but television experts consider that production costs must have been between £5,000 and £6,000. The cost of air-time for the late Sunday time-band which was used, is £1,970 for 30 seconds and £335 for 10 seconds.

This is a great deal of money but cheap for an advertisement in a medium which yields so much power and could open up an area for the promotion of "high-

brow" books, particularly paperbacks.

Key to the Penguin campaign is the way it was aimed at a highly selective audience. Slotted between breaks of LWT's *The South Bank Show*, the commercial was directed at those AB (the television term for the top social economic grouping) viewers who stay up on Sunday evening for their weekly cultural diet.

20 years he is still not sure who his audience is.

Ultimately, I guess, it must be people like me who use the same vocabulary, share the same interests and the same view of life." Has Penguin found those people? Mr Lake seems to think it has. The book was only launched on the last Thursday of October and the commercial shown on the first four Sundays of

learn how to use television language. Our real aim is Channel Four. This will have the similar upmarket BBC2 viewers which will be ideal". He is working with Penguin's advertising agency, Duncan Ogley Associates, on possible follow ups with new books in January and February.

Ogley is not new to TV advertising. The agency handled Corri books and sold the

is watching passers-by in Cromwell Road, and other sites in the West End are being considered.

This more aggressive policy was laid down by Mr Peter Mayer, the American brought in as chief executive three years ago.

Penguin's finances, like those of most publishers, have suffered ups and downs in the recession. Last year the company returned to profit of £242,000 compared with a loss of £381,000 in 1979.

The first-half traditionally shows losses but in the first-half this year the group reduced the loss to £573,000 against £1.6m last year of sales of £19.9m.

It is doubtful whether television will provide the boost for book sales as it does for Nescafe or Wheatol, but it does offer plenty of scope for a range of literature which has never been commercially aired.

Children's books could be simply advertised — so too could non-fiction popular works like David Attenborough's.

Would authors see a threat in glamorous commercials? This was Mr Burgess's only qualification.

"If advertisers forced writers to fit their content, style and image to what they want to advertise, I can think of many novels which could easily be harmed by vulgar advertising. But at the same time I could imagine Shakespeare could be vulgarly, but successfully advertised."

Mr Burgess says he is fed up with writing straightforward books. He wonders, with a chuckle, how his publishers and the commercial people would handle his next, more experimental novel, which involves the life of Sigmund Freud combined with Leon Trotsky's brief stay in New York.

Margareta Pagano

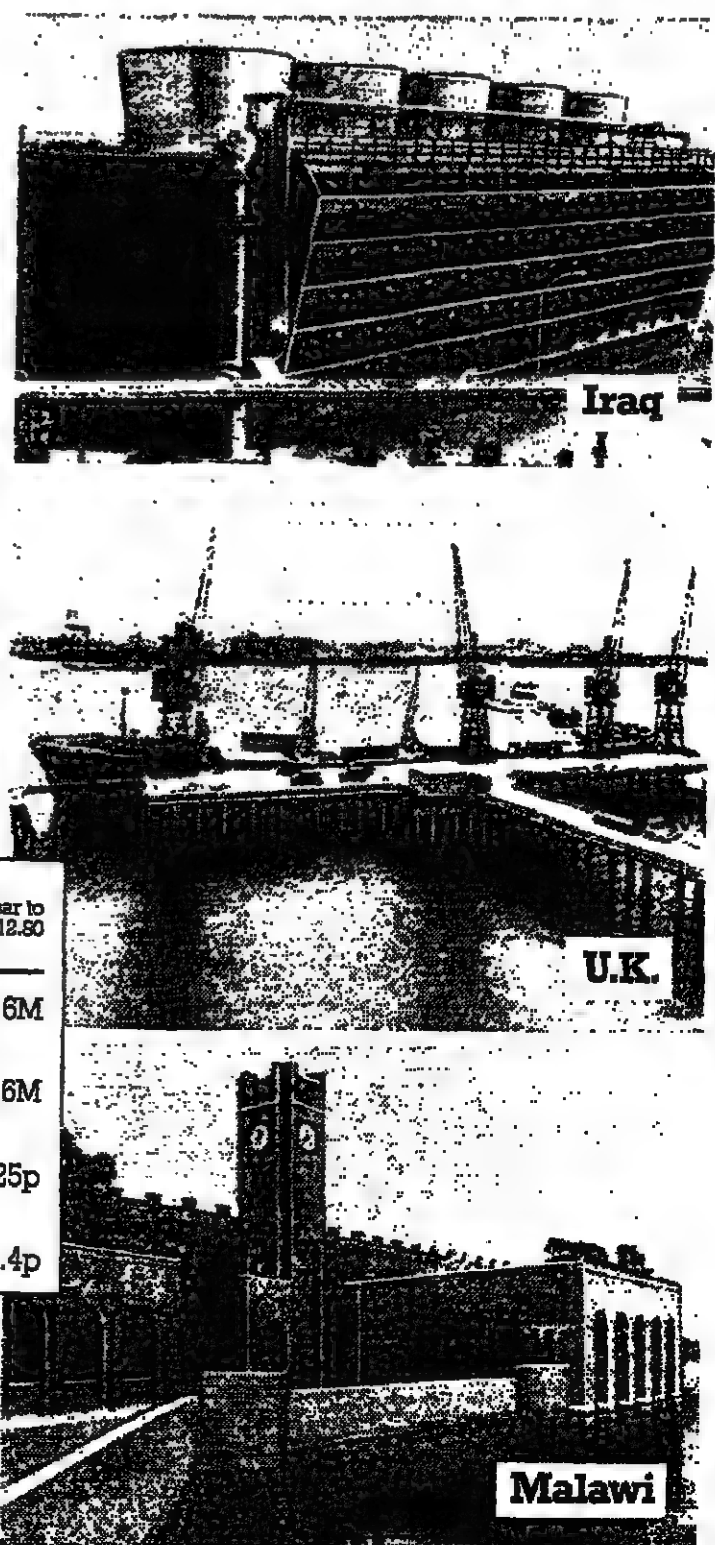
French Kier-sets new records

J. C. S. Mott, F.I.C.E., F.I.Struct.E., Chairman reports on six months to 30th June 1981

- * Group profit — a record at £4.45M (1980 £3.75M)
- * Group turnover — a record at £101M (1980 £92M)
- * Interim dividend — up 16% to 1.1p (1980 0.95p) (payable 18th January 1982)
- * All four divisions traded profitably
- * Significant profit increase from 'Construction in Europe'
- * Substantial increase in turnover of 'Construction overseas'
- * UK order book maintained
- * Overseas order book increased to record level
- * Outcome for the full year is likely to exceed that for 1980

RESULTS (continued)	6 months to 30.6.81	6 months to 30.6.80	Year to 31.12.80
Turnover	£101M	£92M	£216M
Profit before tax	£4.45M	£3.75M	£8.6M
Dividend per share	1.1p	0.95p	3.25p
Earnings per share	5.5p	3.7p	13.4p

FK
works worldwide
French Kier Holdings Public Limited Company



Redland holds pay out after fall

Redland, the building materials group, has not done as well as British Plaster Board, which had to lose, or Blue Circle with its big foreign profits helped by a cheaper pound. But Redland's range of roof tiles, concrete pipes, clay bricks, gravel, and ready-mixed concrete was resilient enough to produce pretax profits of £22m against £23m on sales up from £249.5m to £273.6m in the 26 weeks to September 26. The interim dividend is again 3.81p a share gross.

The shares duly rose 8p to 163p yesterday where the yield is 10.5 per cent.

Apart from the building recession at home, Redland

coped with an expected downturn at its key foreign subsidiary, the West German Bruns & Co., the sale of Redland Purle and a slump in housing and renovation in the United States. Higher prices helped, but the latest profits and loss account was bolstered in other ways.

The Redland Purle departure took annual profits of £2m pretax away with it in return for £20m cash, but it also helped to lower depreciation from £11.06m to £9.7m. Profits from land sales rose from £660,000 to £1.97m. Interest charges came down from £3.5m to £3.6m, again assisted by the Purle sale.

Redland has done some reor-

ganizing. It ran down and closed the loss-making Concrete Pipe Division in England, and sold at a loss its interests in a subsidiary and an associate. But this streamlining is treated as an extraordinary item of £3.61m, and taken below the line.

Mr Colin Corness, chairman, and his colleagues attack the recent report of the Monopolies Commission on the group's main product, concrete roof tiles. With Marley, the group has four fifths of the United Kingdom market. The commission suggested that the two groups made excessive profits, and that the Office of Fair Trading should monitor industry costs and profits.



Mr Colin Corness, chairman of Redland

Ultramar in US expansion

Ultramar, the petroleum group, has bought, through its offshoot, Ultramar America, the capital of Beacon Oil. Beacon was bought from private interests and the price, subject to final adjustments, was \$64.6m (£33.5m). The takeover will double Ultramar's refining capacity in the United States and provide a base for expansion on the West Coast.

Brockhouse loses nearly £2m

Brockhouse of West Bromwich is too deep in castings and forgings, engineering and steel to escape the slump in the West Midlands. Modest prosperity in process plant and in business abroad was not enough in the year to September to stop group pretax profits of £757,000 giving way to losses of £1.96m. Sales fell from £72.5m to £58.9m.

The only gloss that can be put on these figures is that Brockhouse diversified trading with trading profits of £166,000

against £3.15m but they vanished inside interest charges of £2.1m—only £26,000 less than last time. The tiny trading profit was struck after redundancy payments of £249,000 against £43,000.

However, a recovery in profits is expected to be swift once it is under way. A five-year £10.5m investment programme has just been finished and profits are once more being made with the various divisions operating at anything between 55 per cent and 70

per cent of capacity. The shares hardened 1 1/2 to 29 1/2p yesterday. The year's high was 40p.

The market noted the news that the group is near to producing the Maxwell line trans-mission, a new concept in clutch and gearbox design.

In recognition of profits potential, Brockhouse is paying a token dividend of 1p a share net or 1.43p gross, against 4.22p gross, even though the inflation-adjusted pretax loss was £4m.

Extel up 33 pc at half-time

Pretax profits of Extel, the communications and information services group, climbed by a third to £1.6m in the half-year to September 30. This was achieved on a turnover, including total advertising billings, 13.6 per cent greater at £45.5m.

The interim dividend is being raised from 3.21p to 3.57p gross on the capital increased by the recent one-for-one rights issue.

New rule on depreciation

A failure to charge annual depreciation on buildings classified by their owners as investment properties will no longer result in an auditor's qualification—as long as the auditors agree with this definition.

This is the result of the latest statement of standard accounting practice, SSAP 19, from the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies. The standard, Accounting for Investment Properties defines an investment property as an interest in land or buildings which is held for its investment

Recession knocks 600 Group in first half

For the six months to October 10 pretax profits of The 600 Group, the machine tool manufacturing and engineering group, fell to £1.5m from £2.4m. As the attributable level profits were virtually halved at £533,000 and earnings per share came out at 2.6p against 3.1p.

Sir Jack Wellings, the chairman, said yesterday: "The recession at home and in Europe affecting our products continued unabated. Trading was further depressed by a general destocking policy adopted by home machine tool merchants owing to high interest rates."

The group has bought a manufacturer of lorry-mounted cranes in South Africa during the half year and a new plant for the manufacture, servicing and mounting of cranes has been built adjacent to the company's factory near Johannesburg to meet a substantial increase in sales.

"We have formed a new company in the United States, Starline, for the distribution of the expanding range of Starline saws from newly built premises in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and have begun building a plant in Singapore for the effect of this, together with the more attractive value of the pound, must assist our United Kingdom-based companies during these difficult times. We have made substantial economies and have been able to reduce our borrowings", he added.

"Our exports are very strong. We continue to expand our investment overseas and the effect of this, together with the more attractive value of the pound, must assist our United Kingdom-based companies during these difficult times. We have made substantial economies and have been able to reduce our borrowings", he added.

ITO tops £37m after nine months

International Thomson Organisation reports earnings for the nine months to September 30 of £37.4m on net sales of £689.5m, compared to £28.2m on net sales of £675.7m in the same period of last year. Earnings in 1980 were affected by the losses of Times Newspapers, which in the nine months totalled £5.1m and are shown as a loss from discontinued operations.

This third quarter of the year showed a big jump in profits. Earnings for the quarter increased from £14.2m to £22.1m.

Earnings per share in the nine months were 25.8p compared with 20.3p in the corresponding period of last year.

In the United Kingdom, the third quarter reflected the outstanding success of the summer season at the travel group. Thomson Holidays sold a record number of package holidays.

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Banque Bruxelles
Banque Bruxelles Lambert, which a year ago was forced to cut costs drastically, has reported doubled profits and said it will resume payment of a dividend, which will be 70 francs a share. Consolidated profits, which include the operations of the bank's French, British, Swiss and Italian subsidiaries, jumped by 117 per cent to 1,100m Belgian francs.

Business appointments
Mr Philip A. Norman has become managing director of British Rail Engineering. He joins BR from John Brown and Company, where he was chief executive of the machine tools division, and succeeds Mr I. D. Gardiner, who became director of engineering headquarters, earlier this year.

Mr J. C. Armstrong has been made assistant managing director of the British Aluminium Company.

Mr D. N. A. McLure is named vice-chairman of Beecham Products from December 1.

Mr P. D. Hancock is to join the board of Sigmund Brewery. Lord Marshall of Leeds is now a board member of British Rail Property Board.

Mr Kenneth Walton has been elected a vice-president of ITC Europe Incorporated. He is director and general manager for ITC Components within ITC Components and Semiconductors Group.

Dr Alan Robertson, a director of ICI, has been made chairman of the British Nutrition Foundation.

By order of the board
J. I. GOLDFINCH
Managing Secretary

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44 Main Street
Johannesburg
2001

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November 27 1981

Stock markets

Gilts slip after firm start

The hope remains that a cut in domestic interest rates may not be too far distant but yesterday, with Wall Street closed for Thanksgiving Day, investors decided to slow down the pace.

Prices opened firmer, with a few buyers still scratching around for the odd bargain. However, by mid-day interest had waned and prices soon started to drift mainly through lack of interest.

Is someone doubting that GEC will produce that impressive set of figures next Thursday? At 11p rise in the share price yesterday was cut by half to 77 1/2p when a line of 200,000 came on offer and only 70,000 were snapped up.

Nevertheless the tone remained firm with the Bank of England bracing for a further small reduction in domestic interest rates in order to steady the pound as prime rates continued to slip.

The FT index, which was 12.2 up at 10 am, closed 0.1 down at 526.1.

Interest was again centred on grading results and possible bid situations where the building sector was strongly highlighted. Dawn raid rumours were again numerous.

With the usual inactivity from Wall Street missing, gilt prices were somewhat idle day, with prices steadily drifting after a firm start. In longer prices closed all square, while at the shorter end losses of £4 were reported, despite the continued strength of sterling.

In blue chips the half year figures from Courtauld, 3p up at 63p, were at the higher end of expectations although the dividend of 1p was generally discounted. International Paint, 8p per cent owned by Courtauld, which made a substantial contribution to profits, rose 10p to 203p.

Elsewhere, Fisons rose 3p to 136p, Rowater 2p to 212p and Vickers 3p to 156p. But Glaxo fell 2p to 430p, Unilever 2p to 616p, Distillers 2p to 180p and Tube Investments 2p to 104p.

On the bid from the news was mainly of rumours of possible dawn raids. Tunnel, after a promising set of figures, was reported to be preparing a defensive dawn raid on T. W. Ward, 8p higher at 196p, which in turn was said to be ready to bid 56 a share for Tunnel in the hope of fending off the recent bid from RTZ, 15p to 469p. RTZ, meanwhile, was thought to be a possible target of Shell Transport & Trading, down 4p at 396p. Hence the attention in T. W. Ward.

In the meantime, newcomer Exco was said to be taking a stake in Britannia Airways, up 3p at 514p, after selling its 11.57 per cent stake in Mercantile House, down 15p at 430p, for close to £2m. And a United States bidder was reported to be waiting in the wings for Eagle Star, up 5p at 332p, after the Monopolies had cleared the acquisition of a substantial minority holding by Allianz.

In tobacco, Imperial Group rose 1 1/2p to 66p still benefiting from the views of brokers on 7p and Town & City on 2 1/2p.

the dividend may well be maintained. Rothmans' Int 'B' slipped 2p to 79 1/2p on profit taking after recent figures while Alfred Dunhill added a further 10p to 246p.

Tarmac rose 2p to 374p as its bid for Hoveringham was cleared by the Monopolies Commission with the price of the latter rising 1 1/2p to 226p. Better than expected figures lifted Redland 8p to 163p with French Kier 4p stronger at 88 1/2p.

Arthur Guinness rose 4p to 62p after details of its plans to sell the longstanding contractor Callard & Bowser, while Total rose 2 1/2p to 25p after selling its Australian interests.

Bid speculation also lifted Grindley's Bank 1 1/2p to 208p. Stous Romanis 1p to 73p, Breckon Cloud 9p to 143p, and Canal Buses 9p to 172p. Awaiting today's annual meeting, British Car Auction rose 2p to 78 1/2p.

Equity turnover on November 25 was £137.12m (13,622 bargains). Active stocks yesterday according to the Exchange Telegraph were: Eagle Star, Wm Low, French Kier, T.W. Ward, Redland, Road Organisation, United Gas and Traction.

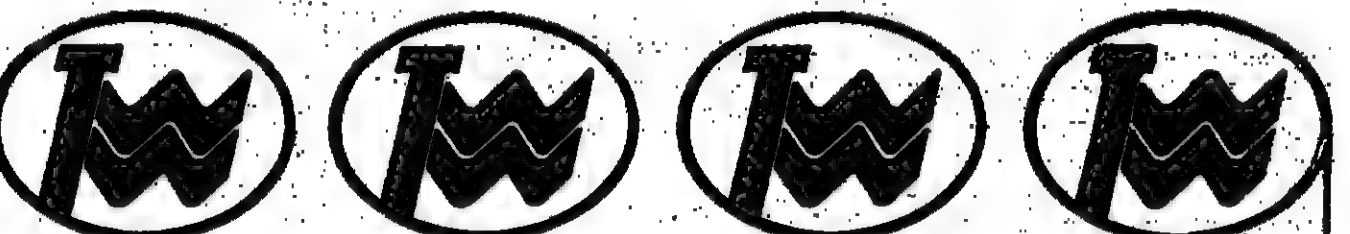
Traded options: Total contracts rose to 2,323 of which puts made up 97. Attention was focused on Imperial Group on 1,117 and RTZ on 276 contracts.

Traditional options saw calls in Royal Bank of Scotland on 22p, Rothmans' International on 7p and Town & City on 2 1/2p.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
inc or fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Anglo-American (I)	2.22(2.2)	334(252)	104(115)	35(35)	21/1	(110)
Burston (I)	8.22(8.2)	1.36(1.3)	13.9(13.6)	1.36(1.3)	18/2	(1.3)
Brockhouse (F)	58.9(72.2)	1.56(0.75)	167(1.73)	1(3)	18/2	(3)
Ruckley's Brew (I)	5.19(4.52)	0.58(0.51)	3.32(3.31)	0.7(0.7)	13/1	(—)
Courtauld (I)	800(857)	2.02(2.1)	2.02(2.1)	1.0(1.0)	11/1	(1.0)
Canal (K&A) (F)	2.44(1.81)	1.1(0.78)	22.5(14.94)	5(4.3)	14/2	(5.0)
Carlisle Capital (I)	32.4(27.79)	1.16(2.25)	2.3(6)	1(1)	15/1	(2.75)
C.P.L. Hides (F)	49.2(41.61)	3.17(2.78)	16.8(18.9)	5(4.5)	12/2	(5.5)
C.P.L. Hides (F)	45.5(40.27)	4.5(4.0)	8.4(7.6)	2.5(2.2)	8/1	(2.0)
French Kier (I)	101(92)	4.45(3.75)	5.5(3.7)	1.1(0.95)	15/1	(3.25)
Fulcrum Inv (F)	—	0.16(0.167)	4.61(4.84)	2.5(2.5)	31/12	(4.6)
Arthur Holden (I)	13.7(11.42)	0.31(0.26)	7.3(5.8)	2(2)	8/1	(5.0)
Hammer Hedges (I)	171(134)	0.18(0.14)	15.6(11.8)	—	8/2	(3.5)
Int Paint (I)	—	0.16(0.15)	0.21(0.17)	15.1(11.09)	10(10)	(14.14)
John & Lemmer Inv (I)	—	0.41(0.26)	1.46(0.96)	0.6(0.5)	—	(1.9)
Mac Second Bus (I)	—	0.24(0.22)	0.24(0.22)	4.3(4.3)	18/1	(—)
Prop & Rev Inv (I)	—	0.89(0.9)	2.0(2.1)	1(1)	30/1	(3.0)
Redland (I)	135.6(194.4)	21.23(27)	9.18(8.94)	2.6(2.6)	25/1	(7.34)
Scottish Inv (F)	—	5.55(6.39)	4.61(4.52)	2.9(2.6)	9/2	(4.43)
600 Group (I)	72(87)	4.02(4.1)	2.6(2.1)	2.6(2.1)	15/1	(5.2)
Silverthorne (F)	4.05(4.15)	0.35(0.36)	7.89(4.43)	1.25(1.0)	18/1	(1.75)
Triplet (I)	16.5(17.5)	0.37(0.38)	—	—	—	(1.0)
United Hides (I)	8.76(7.53)	0.16(0.15)	2.9(2.2)	6(3.5)	25/1	(4.5)
Unit Gas Inv (I)	21.6(22.15)	1.16(0.76)	—	1.5(1.5)	15/1	(4.9)
Wheeler's (I)	3.4(3.3)	0.17(0.23)	—	1.5(1.5)	18/1	(5.88)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. *—Includes special dividend of 7p; +—Loss; 2—S African Rand; 3—S African cents.



To the shareholders of

Thos. W. Ward

REJECT RTZ

Do not sell your shares

Ward announces

15% increase in profits

Ward's profits before taxation for the year ended 30th September, 1981 were £18.0 million—an increase of 15%. Fully diluted earnings per share increased by 17% to 23.1p.

20% increase in dividend

Ward's board is recommending a final dividend of 5.2p (net) per share making a total of 7.8p for the year—an increase of 20%.

A profit forecast for the current year is being prepared; the board expects to be able to forecast a further increase in dividend.

RTZ'S BID IS UNWELCOME AND GROSSLY INADEQUATE. TAKE NO ACTION UNTIL YOU HAVE HEARD IN FULL FROM YOUR BOARD

This advertisement is published by S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. on behalf of Thos. W. Ward p.l.c.
The directors of Thos. W. Ward p.l.c. (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate and each of the directors accepts responsibility accordingly.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

French Kier climbs 18.7pc

By Paul Malmgren

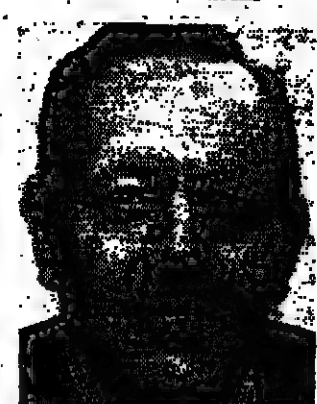
French Kier, the engineering contractor, has lifted its sales and profits at the halfway stage in what it says is proving to be a difficult year for the construction industry, by maintaining margins even at the cost of limiting turnover growth.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 rose 18.7 per cent to £4.45m. Sales, however, increased less than half as fast from £92m to £101m.

The group is raising its half-time dividend from 1.35p to 1.57p, an increase of 16 per cent.

The European construction division, whose work is mainly in Britain, increased its contribution to group profits from £900,000 to £2.05m although turnover fell from £70m to £57m.

The construction division also announced a £1.52 contract yesterday from British Nuclear Fuels in Sellafield, Cumbria.



Mr John Mott, chairman of French Kier.

The once-troubled Robert Marriot housebuilding subsidiary increased its contribution to the division sixfold to £350,000. The group also attributes the division's higher profits to increased efficiency

and an increase in interest received. Group interest against £1m against about £700,000 a year earlier.

Profits from the overseas division fell from £1.55m to £1.30m, although turnover rose from £14.5m to £27m, reflecting the start of new work from which no profit contribution has yet been taken.

Despite a same again loss of £150,000 at its concrete pipe factory in Scotland, profits of the products and services division rose from £10,000 to £50,000.

Mr John Mott, the chairman, said yesterday that the group had £240m worth of work under its order books, and he expected pre-tax profits for the full year to exceed last year's £8.6m.

Wall Street

New York, Nov. 25—Stocks posted big gains for the second day in a row, reflecting the market's euphoria over the swift decline in interest rates.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 7.90 at

878.14. The average has added some 26 points over the past two sessions. Advances led declines by around 1,000 to 540 and volume rose to about 58.5 million shares from 53.20 million yesterday.

Analysts said investors were still reacting to the cut in the prime rate to 16 per cent yesterday by most major banks and to 15 1/2 per cent by Chase Manhattan.

The record may slightly flatter them in that the opposition has been cut of experience and class. But India had to do without Kapil Dev, their best all-rounder, in yesterday's one-day international. But a side on tour, self-confidence is more than half the battle.

At Wankhede Stadium tomorrow, they will be good batsmen, especially a step ahead as Fletcher and Gavaskar walk out to toss in front of an expected crowd of 40,000.

Fletcher has settled into the captaincy so smoothly nobody would guess almost five years have passed since he played a Test match. His last encounter was with Lillee in the Centenary Test in Melbourne in March, 1977. If he had succeeded in the West Indies, or Brabury been available to make the present tour, he might have seen his career out leading Essex.

Test pitch then England were expecting when they practised at the nets today, was a surprise when the selectors, Fletcher, Willis and Subba Row, named eleven players only, rather than the 15 players usually named.

They did so on the assumption probably well founded, that India were unlikely to have forgotten Rohan's pitch in the Jubilee Test 18 months ago. Uncertainty about Kapil Dev's fitness

Cricket

Confident English have already won more than half the battle

From A Special Correspondent Bombay, Nov. 26

One would have to thumb through many Wisdens to find almost starting a Test match on tour with a record to match that of Keith Fletcher's side in India: four wins and one draw and the bulk of yesterday's victory in Ahmedabad to round their preparations off.

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Fletcher: a smooth accession.

(strained back) increases the chance that the pitch will have a shave.

Bozham, who was 26 on Tuesday, made the sixth of his eight Test hundreds in that match and stands within 23 runs of becoming the first Englishman to do the "double-double"—2,000 runs and 200 wickets—for his country. Only Sobers (8,032 and 255) and Tendulkar (2,401 and 248) have achieved the feat.

For Underwood, too, though, there is a stepping-stone towards a record. His 275th Test wicket, a quick Yorker that scattered Robert's Testers, came in the 19th over of the first innings. Underwood, looking to score to be his last when he missed the tour to the West Indies, was left out of England's 12 in August at Old Trafford.

Now, thanks to Fletcher's faith in him, he returns after a 14-Ten

absence, needing 29 wickets to beat Treanor's England record and 31 to top the list—Gibbs's 338 Test wickets. He played 44 Tests in India, plus another in Sri Lanka. Underwood should by March be king of the castle in conditions which have yielded 44 wickets on two tours.

India have a promising new left-hander in 19-year-old Ravishastri. He is tall, for an Indian, 6ft 2ins, and with his steep trajectory has the makings of a good partner for the slower, flighty Doshi. Shastri bowled with exceptional control in the one-day international, slanting the ball at middle-and-leg, but turning it enough to inhibit the sweep stroke. He bats well, too.

Unless Kapil Dev makes way for Suru Navak, an English-type seam bowler, India's bowling at Baroda interrupted England's run of victories. Srikkanth, the opening batsman, will be India's new captain. He has been out for one and a half years, driving loosely at Underwood at Nagpur, and outswinging by Rohan at Ahmedabad—three outswingers followed by a straight one that knocked out the first batsman. England are happy to see him in the side ahead of the cold Chetan Chauhan.

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Jessel optimistic about US wells

Mr Oliver Jessel, chairman of Jessel Trust, told shareholders yesterday that the investment in the Randolph gas field in New York State should be producing cash for the company by this time next year.

He said the group had 100 fields of 40 acres and the first seven wells drilling had struck satisfactory quantities of gas. The next 10, he said, looked encouraging. He estimated a cash flow of £300,000 a year from the 17 wells.

Jessel Trust has bought its stake in Rotaco (formerly Clairmont) to 19 per cent, buying 10 per cent from Plantation & General.

Plans to bring Rotaco to the Stock Market will now depend on the potential of when it is described as a revolutionary domestic gas burner designed to prevent any escape of gas should the automatic ignition system fail.

Talbox Group

In our report yesterday of the 1981 results of the Talbox Group, the trading profit at Talbox's subsidiary, AP Skel-

Triplex halves loss

After plunging heavily into loss in 1980-81, Triplex Foundries Group is starting to recover. Although group turnover slipped by £1m to £16.6m in the half-year to September 30, the pre-tax loss was more than halved to £371,000, compared with £891,000 last year.

The costs of industrial surgery in October are estimated at £1.6m and will be included in the annual accounts as an extraordinary item, but the actions taken will help to accelerate the group's return to profitability.

Mercury Securities

The results of Mercury Securities—who own S. G. Warburg, for the first half are in line with those for the comparable period last year. The board reports that it is never possible at this stage to make estimates for the year as a whole, but expenses continue to rise, while economic and business conditions make it

increasingly difficult to achieve corresponding growth in revenue.

Ductile Steels

At Ductile Steels, Mr Ronald Sidaway, chairman, said that the directors were unanimous in their opinion that it was in the best interests of the shareholders and employees that Ductile remain independent.

He added that output and sales were rising and that trading in the second quarter was satisfactory.

New Tootal disposal

Tootal has disposed of its second overseas interest in one month, just three weeks after selling off its Ups in Downs US subsidiary, the group has reached agreement with Bruck of Australia to sell 19.5 per cent of its equity interest in its Australian associate Bradmill Industries.

If Tootal accepts the Bruck offer of 75 cents a share and the final dividend and disposes of the residue of its holding in Bradmill, it stands to receive around \$439.8 (£23.8m).

Courtaulds

Interim Results

The Board has declared an interim dividend in respect of the 1981/82 year of 1p per Ordinary Share (gross equivalent 1.429p—1980 nil) to be paid on 11th January, 1982 to shareholders on the register on 26th November, 1981. The cost of the interim dividend after deducting ACT is £2.7m.

Unaudited results for the half year to 30th September, 1981 are:—

1980/81			1981/82
1st Half	2nd Half		1st Half
£m	£m		£m
857.9	852.0	Sales to External Customers	860.5
414.5	427.3	Sales to UK Customers	388.8
218.5	195.8	Exports from UK (including inter-group)	189.0
253.5	253.3	Sales by Overseas Companies	318.0
(1.6)	(9.3)	Trading Profit—UK (1980 Loss)	1.1
17.7	23.0	—Overseas	28.1
16.1	13.7		29.2
2.4	2.4	Associated Companies	2.1
(15.7)	(13.8)	Interest Payable net of Investment Income	(10.8)
2.8	2.3	Profit before Tax	20.5
—	(1.8)	Taxation—UK (including ACT £1.2m)	(1.3)
(5.2)	(5.1)	—Overseas	(9.4)
(5.2)	(6.9)		(10.7)
(2.4)	(4.6)	Profit After Tax (1980 Loss)	9.8
(3.9)	(5.6)	Minority Interests	(5.7)
(6.3)	(10.2)	Courtaulds Shareholders' Interest*	4.1
(0.1)	—	Preference Dividends	(0.1)
(6.4)	(10.2)	Courtaulds Ordinary Shareholders' Interest*	4.0

*Before Extraordinary Items

The improvement in the UK trading profit from the very depressed level experienced in the second half of 1980/81 is the result of action taken to close loss-making units. The reduction in UK sales is entirely due to a decline in volume. Prices were virtually unchanged and the small increase in margins despite higher costs reflects greater productivity. As yet, there has been no material recovery in UK demand.

The results of the overseas operations were considerably more buoyant than those in the UK, helped by the fall in the value of sterling which added £37m to sales and £2.5m to trading profit. The overseas companies have continued to show an improvement over last year in the second half so far.

Courtaulds, Limited
18 Hanover Square, London W1A 2BB

D. C. Pimlott, Secretary
26th November 1981

Commodities

COPPER was steady—Afternoon—Cash (3000) £261.00-262.00. Three months £261.00-262.00. Standard £261.00-262.00. High grade £261.00-262.00. Low grade £261.00-262.00. Tin was steady—Afternoon—Standard £1,550.00-1,560.00. Tinne £1,550.00-1,560.00. High grade £1,550.00-1,560.00. Low grade £1,550.00-1,560.00.

SOYABEAN MEAL (per tonne)—Dec. 1981 £120.00-121.00. Jan. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Feb. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Mar. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Apr. 1982 £120.00-121.00. May 1982 £120.00-121.00. Jun. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Jul. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Aug. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Sep. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Oct. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Nov. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Dec. 1982 £120.00-121.00.

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CRAB—The Baltic—Wholesale—Dec. 1981 £120.00-121.00. Jan. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Feb. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Mar. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Apr. 1982 £120.00-121.00. May 1982 £120.00-121.00. Jun. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Jul. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Aug. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Sep. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Oct. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Nov. 1982 £120.00-121.00. Dec. 1982 £120.00-121.00.

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Edited by Peter Davalle

Radio 4

Special guests: Spike Jonze and his City Slickers, 11.00. Brian Matthews + team midnight, 1.00. Thursday's Hour + 2.00-5.00 You and the Night and the Music. †

Radio 1

5.00 As Radio 2 7.00 Mike Read 9.00 Simon Bates, 11.00 Dave Lee Travis, 2.00 Paul Burnett, 3.30 Steve Wright, 5.45 Roundtable, 7.00 Andy Peebles, 10.00 The Friday Rock Show with Tommy Vance, † 12.00 midnight Close, VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2, 5.00am with Radio 2, 10.00pm With Radio 1, 12.00-5.00am With Radio 2.

[illegible]

Radio 1/2 VHF 68-91MHz. Radio 3
Area Mf 7.0MHz, 41 Fm LBG Mf
The West Today 3.30-3.45 The
British Opera. 4.00 Newsweek. 5.45 The
World Today.

HTV

As London except. 12.30 pm-1.00 Fm
for Living. 1.50-1.35 News. 2.45
Cartoon. 2.50-4.15 Fm Only With
Married Men (David Brierley, Michelle
Lee). Suspect: Can make a rule that
she will only go out with married
men. 6.00 Report West. 6.30-7.00
Long Report: The Seven.
Stroudwater to Lydney 10.28 Mins.
10.30 Report East. 11.00 Fm
Only With Married Men (David
Brierley, Michelle Lee). Land-nymph
pioneers rush to stake their claims.
In cinema. 12.30 am Closedown.

HTV CYMRU/WALES

As HTV West except. 10.45 am-11.03

SOUTHERN

As London excepted. 12-30pm: 6.00 Fill for Living. 1.00-3.00 News. 2.00 Houseparty. 3.25-4.15 Film: *Anatomy of Seduction* (Susan Flannery).
Doverdale has an affair with her best friend's son, 8.00 Day by Day. 6.00 Scene South East. 6.30-7.00 Out of Town. 10.35 Film, *Bluebeard* (Raquel Welch).
The film tells of the adventures of a wife finds the bodies of seven women in his castle vault. 12.50am: Weather followed by Thinking Aloud.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: 1 STYLED A BLACK AND WHITE DESIGN 2

ENTERTAINMENTS AMERSBACH £24 117, Dns 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908,	
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Foot favours EEC U-turn in search for Labour unity

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

Labour leaders are preparing the ground for a U-turn on Common Market withdrawal, to allow a referendum verdict by the voters.

The party conference last month decided by a block vote majority of 4,756,000 to oppose a referendum, and unless that conference verdict is overturned the party will be committed against a referendum at the next general election.

The left-wing argument has been that the electorate will have an opportunity to decide the question of withdrawal in the general election, and that argument is tinged with the suspicion that a referendum would be manipulated to maintain the status quo.

But it is understood that Mr Michael Foot is now leaning in favour of such a referendum as part of his continuing attempts to knit the party together behind an agreed policy.

Mr John Silkin, the new Shadow Cabinet spokesman on Defence and Disarmament, has already helped Labour unity by implying that there could be no unilateral nuclear disarmament without multilateral nuclear disarmament.

The appointment of Mr Eric Heffer, now an ardent anti-Marketeer, as opposition spokesman on European and Community affairs has been widely taken as an indication that Labour conference policy will be pursued to the hilt.

Some senior shadow ministers, however, are privately confident that Mr Heffer will compromise and relent on the referendum.

Friends of the new shadow minister believe that he is wavering, and will be persuaded to do an about-turn. For when he launches his preliminary negotiations with fellow European socialists, part of his new duties, he will learn that they will offer no cooperation on withdrawal.

Mr Foot and Mr Denis Healey, his deputy, have been told by President Mitterrand that he will not facilitate departure, but will present a powerful public case for continuing British membership of the Community.

It is a common belief among French political leaders, and

Airline jet hijacked by fleeing raiders

Continued from page 1

former members of South African commando units.

The source said that the coup had been planned for some time and involved the infiltration into the Seychelles of groups of mercenaries posing as tourists.

The mercenaries involved in the fighting at Mahé airport apparently arrived on a regular flight from Swaziland at 6.30 pm yesterday. According to one version of what happened, the shooting started when customs officials discovered weapons in the baggage of one of the men.

The Air India Boeing landed about three hours later to find itself in the middle of a battle. The pilot, Captain S. N. C. Misra, told *The Times* that at first he had been unable to get any response when he radioed the control tower for landing clearance and he had started to alter course for Mauritius.

Captain Misra said that he was then contacted by the control tower and told to come in. He realised something was badly wrong when he saw army vehicles partially blocking the runway as he came in to land. He avoided tow bar clipped a third, damaging a wing tip, and pushed up just before the end of the runway, a few yards from the sea.

A Briton aboard the aircraft, Mr David Benning, marketing manager of the Zimbabwe Sun Hotels group, said he and his fellow passengers spent a frightening couple of hours in the dark listening to mortar shells exploding and the crackle of small arms fire.

"Suddenly the door opened and these guys walked in," Mr Benning said. He counted 36 although other passengers said there were 40. He men had brought a corpse, apparently one of their number killed in the fighting. And one had an arm wound.

Captain Misra said that some of the hijackers were clearly South African but the others might have been New Zealanders, Malaysians, British "and the odd American."

Nairobi: The Seychelles Government announced that the situation was under control. Seychelles Radio said that the hijackers were armed, having forced the airport to surrender, were hunting for members of the invading force (Charles Harrison writes).



The Prince of Wales receiving his honorary doctorate in London yesterday.

Doctor of Music? I don't deserve it

The Prince of Wales last night became a Doctor of Music of the Royal College of Music. He said afterwards that he did not think he deserved it.

The prince, whose doctorate is only the third in the college's 100-year history said: "I don't feel in any way that I come up to the required standard to merit such an honour, but I am getting rather used to receiving such things."

The Queen Mother, patron of the college for 43 years and its president for 29 years, conferred the honour on her grandson. He said that the Queen Mother had aroused his interest in music. She took him to see the Bolshoi Ballet in Covent Garden when he was six.

"She has a particular gift to make some-

thing like that enormous fun and it established a real interest in music," he said.

Sir David Willcocks said that the prince was only the third Doctor of Music the college had appointed. The others were Queen Mary in 1933 and the Queen Mother 40 years later. The prince had been given his doctorate because of his patronage of music.

The dying wish of Gunnar Nilsson, Sweden's ace racing driver, came true yesterday when a cancer treatment centre was opened by Princess Anne at Charing Cross Hospital, London.

Nilsson died of cancer at the hospital three years ago. Knowing that he was dying, he set up a campaign to raise money to help other cancer sufferers.

Arab world polarizes East and West after summit debacle

From Tewfik Mishawi, Beirut, Nov 26

The collapse of the twelfth Arab summit in Fes was received in most of the Arab world with shock and disappointment. Whatever degree of Arab solidarity existed before the summit convened has now been shattered, proving once more that a common Arab approach on the conflict with Israel is as it has always been—impossible.

The Saudis had counted heavily on the support of Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Liberation Organization leader, but Mr Arafat, who laboured strenuously to bring about a degree of Arab consensus of the Saudi plan in the week before the summit, was overruled not only by his Arab allies, Syria, Libya and Iraq, but also by the majority of the 15-member executive committee of the PLO.

The Arab headline states had indicated that negotiations on the Saudi peace plan, despite Saudi assurances that the proposals were open to amendment. The Saudi leaders themselves modified the plan to allow for a Soviet role in the peacekeeping process.

They acknowledged that the proposed independent Palestinian state would be led by the PLO and emphasized that the scheme should not be regarded as a unilateral Saudi initiative.

The summit was specifically intended to debate the plan and to produce a collective Arab substitute for the American-sponsored Camp David peace process which the Saudis and most other Arab nations have rejected.

Crown Prince Fahd's assurances that the United States would support and accept the plan only if there was secure Arab backing for the summit, seemed to change the minds of the radical Arab leaders. President Assad of Syria, who wanted a postponement of the Arab debate on the plan, called on the Saudi leaders to secure first of all "the unconditional and irreversible acceptance of the plan by the United States and Israel and then present it to discussion at summit level."

The collapse of the Fes summit was a severe blow not only to Saudi Arabia, whose role and influence in the region had been rapidly increasing, but also to Arab solidarity in the struggle with Israel. The first serious blow came when President Sadat visited Jerusalem in 1977, a step which was followed by the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

The discussion which took place in the four-hour summit yesterday verged on acrimony, as delegates argued over the right of absent heads of state to take decisions on war and peace. They wrangled over whether it was permissible to use words like "reasonable" and "enjoyable" to describe the Saudi peace plan.

According to Arab sources in Beirut, Crown Prince Fahd expressed particular anger at his critics for "insulting me personally" during the debate on the plan. Mr Arafat has been particularly embarrassed in his relations with the Saudis because he ultimately threw his weight behind the Arab states opposing the Saudi proposals. But the Saudi Prince, according to a report in Beirut, assured Mr Arafat of continued Saudi support for the PLO. The report quoted Prince Fahd as telling Mr Arafat: "We support you now as we always did. If you wish, we shall draw the cheque for you right now."

The left-wing press in Beirut today regarded the outcome of the summit as a victory for the Saudis and a defeat for the Palestinians. From Damascus, Syria, Libya, Algeria, South Yemen and the PLO. The immediate result of the summit collapse is therefore likely to be further polarization of the Arab world between East and West—the conservative pro-Western Arab block and the Soviet-backed group of states.

Saudi Arabia may now adopt an inward-looking policy. The Saudis may be able, through their burgeoning oil revenues, to keep Arab criticism to a minimum, but they may now decide to reconsider their foreign policy. One thing they may pay more attention to is the strengthening of the newly-established Gulf Cooperation Council, which groups the six countries which supported the Saudi proposal.

Balance of power, page 8
Leading article, page 15

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

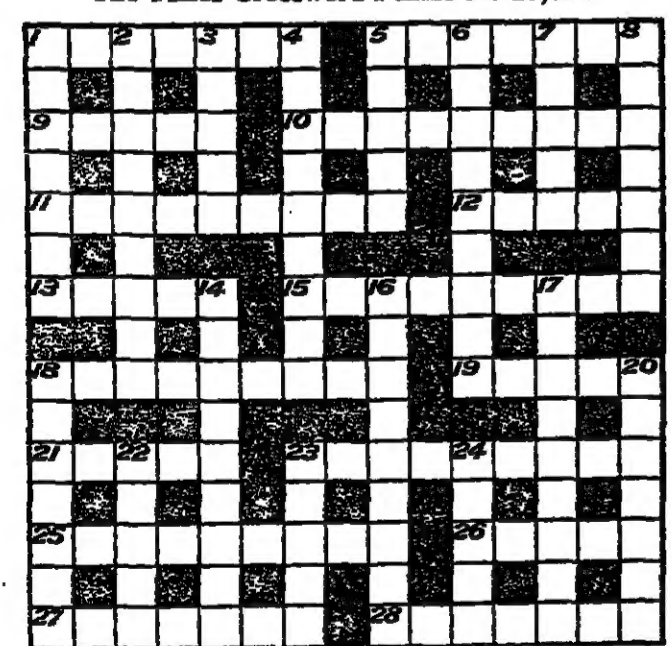
Tomorrow's events

The Duchess of Gloucester attends hall in aid of handicapped children's Aid Committee, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, 7.10.

Exhibitions in provinces

Paintings by William Baxter, Aberdeen Art Gallery, 10 to 5. Paintings and drawings by Paul Nizinski, Datchet Gallery, Datchet, Berkshire, 10 to 5.30; Liverpool

The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 15,691



- ACROSS
- 1 Some dish, says theatre's vox populi (7).
 - 5 Clumsy fellows talk about ill-gotten gains (7).
 - 9 Championship of the right (5).
 - 11 One point to consider in tour from place to place (9).
 - 12 Runs in bar for a sharper (5).
 - 13 Set for example in reverse gear (3-2).
 - 15 Wire-pulling gets us a chimney in the pub by the church (9).
 - 18 What made North once idle (9).
 - 19 Only ringing about the plinth (5).
 - 21 A's tail-less bird (5).
 - 23 First principles - little cash in little pigs (9).
 - 25 "Not long without a drink" - a solo performance (9).
 - 26 About a thousand railwaymen in Belgium (5).
 - 27 Pointed reply in prose it might appear (7).
 - 28 Get half of them finished, corrected (7).
- DOWN
- 1 Apostasy, a job for a dog (7).
 - 2 Freed to dance in the nude, perhaps (9).
 - 3 Poplar's third man, note (5).
 - 4 Two drinking places, one an awfully rough one (9).
 - 5 A slip-up doesn't finish the foreman (5).
 - 6 Bird sitting on eggs in the delphiniums (9).
 - 7 West - remarkable chap all round. He's got something (5).
 - 8 Jack's up here to soak the French (7).
 - 14 Recantations by poet's friendly collaborator (9).
 - 16 Conductor of a passenger gets the bird (9).
 - 17 Prison specified by friends so called (9).
 - 18 Put revenue on one side for the successor (7).
 - 20 Made safe of course, finally (7).
 - 22 One point in young Fido's attractive picture (3-2).
 - 23 Rob the old magistrate, say? (5).
 - 24 Chop logic perhaps, but do not use words (5).

Solution to Puzzle No. 15,690



Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow

The Times list of best-selling books

Drama			
Shakespeare New Penguin Shakespeare Hamlet	John Galsworthy	Duckworth	£1.95
Let Love be Candlerford The Barber of Seville and the Marriage of Figaro	Keith Dewhurst	Penguin Hutchinson	£2.50
Waiting for Godot	Saunderchild Samuel Beckett	Penguin Faber	95p

Photography			
Me and my Camera The Most Beautiful Women Successful Colour Photography David Bailey's Book of Photography	Jon Partridge Patrick Lichfield	Ash & Grant Hamish Hamilton Collins	£10.00 £10.00
Starting Photography	Michael Langford	Dent Focal Press	£14.95 £3.50

The Times list is based on trade sales through Hammick's to 400 bookshops

The Times list is based on trade sales through Hamrick's to 400 bookshops and verified retail sales through Hamrick's bookshops and 30 others.

The Pound

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.71	1.64	1.64
Canada \$	1.71	1.64	1.64
Denmark Kr	13.45	13.65	13.65
Finland Mk	8.77	8.32	8.32
France Fr	11.34	10.74	10.74
Germany DM	121.00	113.00	113.00
Greece Dr	11.34	10.74	10.74
Hong Kong \$	11.34	10.74	10.74
Italy Lir	2400.00	2300.00	2300.00
Japan Yen	444.00	418.00	418.00
Netherlands Gld	4.89	4.65	4.65
Norway Kr	11.34	10.74	10.74
Portugal Esc	130.00	123.00	123.00
Spain Ptas	162.50	153.50	153.50
Sweden Kr	10.97	10.43	10.43
Switzerland Fr	3.62	3.40	3.40
USA \$	1.99	1.92	1.92
Yugoslavia Dn	93.00	87.00	87.00

London: The FT index fell 0.1 to 526.1.

Sporting fixtures

Football	Third Division	Fourth Division	Fifth Division
Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading

Food prices

Prices of beef and of British lamb continue high and may show further increases this weekend. New Zealand lamb is being promoted in a number of shops. Pork and bacon prices are generally steady.

Today's anniversaries

Chaim Weizmann, first President of Israel, was born at Motyl, Poland, in 1874.

Weather

Pressure will remain low to the N of Scotland as a frontal trough over S England quickly moves SE.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S England, East Angles and Wales (E): Cloudy with rain at times, but becoming brighter and sunnier; wind W, moderate or fresh; max temp 6 to 9C (43 to 48F).

Channel Islands and SW England: Cloudy with rain at times, but becoming brighter and sunnier; wind W, moderate or fresh; max temp 6 to 9C (43 to 48F).

North Sea: Breeze from W, moderate or fresh; max temp 6 to 9C (43 to 48F).

North Atlantic: Breeze from W, moderate or fresh; max temp 6 to 9C (43 to 48F).

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NOON TODAY		High tides			
Location	Wind	Temp	Cloud	Pressure	Barometer
London	W, 12-15	12-15	Cloudy	1012	7.0
Edinburgh	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Belfast	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Cardiff	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Manchester	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Birmingham	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Nottingham	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Leeds	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Sheffield	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Coventry	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Bristol	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Exeter	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Plymouth	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Southampton	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Portsmouth	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Weymouth	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Bournemouth	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Dorchester	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Salisbury	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Swindon	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Reading	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Windsor	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Slough	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Uxbridge	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
High Wycombe	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Milton Keynes	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Leamington	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Warwick	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Stratford	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Covent	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Nuneaton	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Bedford	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
St Albans	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Hemel Hempstead	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Tring	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Watlington	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Wotton Bassett	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Wotton Underwood	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Wotton	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Wotton Bassett	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Wotton Underwood	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Wotton	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Wotton Bassett	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Wotton Underwood	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Wotton	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Wotton Bassett	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Wotton Underwood	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Wotton	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Wotton Bassett	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Wotton Underwood	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
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Wotton Bassett	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
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Wotton	W, 10-12	10-12	Cloudy	1010	7.0
Wotton Bassett	W, 10-12	10-			